

Wilmington, Delaware
May 4, 2017

#4361

Sponsor:

**Council
President
Shabazz**

WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson during the height of the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Voting is an important right of all eligible citizens, and remains among the primary means of political participation; and

WHEREAS, Delaware State Representative David Bentz has introduced House Bill 79, which would amend Title 15 of the Delaware Code related to the registration of voters. Presently, when Delawareans apply for, renew, or replace a driver's license or identification card, they must choose to register to vote, update an existing registration, or decline registration. This bill would require eligible voters to instead "opt out" of having their information automatically shared with the Delaware Department of Elections for registration; and

WHEREAS, Delaware State Representative Stephanie T. Bolden has introduced House Bill 89, which would amend Title 15 of the Delaware Code relating to primary voting by moving the date of primary elections for statewide office, county office, and municipal office to the fourth Tuesday in April, which is the date of the presidential primary in presidential election years; and

WHEREAS, Delaware State Representative David Bentz has also introduced House Bill 90, which would amend Title 15 of the Delaware Code relating to early voting by allowing registered voters to vote in-person for at least ten days prior to an election, up to and including the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to the election; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council wishes to join State Representatives David Bentz and Stephanie T. Bolden in their efforts to promote and encourage voting, and to consider State law changes to make voting easier and more convenient for Delawareans – including those living in Wilmington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council supports House Bills 79, 89, and 90, and the efforts before the Delaware General Assembly to encourage residents of the First State, as well as Wilmington, to exercise their civic duty.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of May, 2017.

Assistant City Solicitor