

Resolution #11-R-22

Resolution in Support of Election Officials

Date: September 21, 2022

Submitted by: Fenton – District 6, Meltzer – District 2, Schultz – District 9

Referred to: Safety & Licensing Committee

Summary: A resolution in support of the City Clerk and staff and citizen election inspectors to administer free and fair elections.

WHEREAS, the survival of our democracy depends on free and fair elections, where all eligible voters have the opportunity to make their voices heard; and

WHEREAS, we believe our community has been well-served by the current system of nonpartisan election administration governed by a bi-partisan commission, managed by our City Clerk, and administered by our friends and neighbors who serve as election inspectors who also publicly canvass the election results and report the results to the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, these same election officials played a critical role in making the 2020 election safe, secure, and accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, over the past year, some in our society have attempted to bully, threaten, and undermine election administrators, making it harder for election officials to do their jobs, which reduces faith in the electoral process and hurts the health of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, looking forward to the 2022 election and beyond, we reaffirm our conviction that nonpartisan election officials like our City Clerk and local election inspectors are best equipped to preside over free and fair elections, and should do so without the fear of threats and intimidation; and

WHEREAS, this Common Council strongly opposes any future attempts to seize power over elections from municipal clerks to grant it to any partisan entity; and

WHEREAS, as long as our non-partisan election administrators continue to administer our elections with accessibility, fairness, equality, safety, and security in mind, we are fully committed to standing behind them in the face of unfounded attacks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Appleton expresses full confidence in our City Clerk, citizen election inspectors, and Wisconsin's system of bipartisan election administration.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support our friends and neighbors who serve as election inspectors and local election officials, including our City Clerk and city staff.