

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-117

First Reading Passage Requested

(Executive Shapiro)

2
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Veronica Sims, John Donofrio, John Schmidt, Rita Darrow,
4 Jeff Wilhite, Christine Weidie Higham, Erin Dickinson, Elizabeth Walters

5 DATE April 24, 2023

COMMITTEE Committee as a Whole

6
7 **A Resolution opposing proposed changes to Ohio Revised Code section 3501.022 as contained**
8 **in Ohio Senate Bill 92 that would expand the circumstances under which a special election**
9 **may be held in August and declare a special election on August 8, 2023, for the Executive**
10 **and Council, and declaring an emergency.**

11
12 WHEREAS, less than one year ago, the Ohio General Assembly eliminated most August
13 special elections in H.B. 458 of the 134th General Assembly, a change supported by Ohio Secretary
14 of State Frank LaRose, the Ohio Association of Election Officials, the County Commissioners
15 Association of Ohio and many other stakeholders. Now, just months later, the general assembly
16 has proposed reversing some of these changes to allow for a special election in August 2023.

17
18 WHEREAS, S.B. 92 would amend 3501.022 to enact section (B), expanding the
19 circumstances under which a special election may be held in August to include a statewide ballot
20 issue passed by the Statehouse; and

21
22 WHEREAS, S.B. 92 appropriates \$20 million to the Secretary of State in FY 2023 to pay
23 the cost of conducting a special election on August 8, 2023; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the cost of holding an August election in Summit County is nearly \$700,000.
26 In August 2022, use of these funds for an August election resulted in a low, 6.8% voter turnout,
27 costing an estimated \$28.29 per voter in Summit County; and

28
29 WHEREAS, it is a challenge to local Boards of Elections to staff all primary and general
30 elections with volunteer Precinct Election Officials and it is even more challenging to staff an
31 August special election. It is also a burden on Board of Election staff who pre-plan well-deserved
32 and earned time off and other important events during the summer; and

33
34 WHERAS, Counties Boards of Elections have prepared for the 2023 election cycle without
35 planning for a special August election. Boards will have to secure polling locations, ensure staff
36 are available, and recruit enough volunteers to successfully run the elections, all while preparing
37 for the November 2023 general election; and

38
39 WHERAS, the Summit County Board of Elections and its staff can more productively use
40 this time by preparing new voting equipment and working on the facility and equipment
41 implementation improvements necessary to conduct the 2024 presidential elections; and

42
43 WHEREAS, it is clear that holding special elections in August would result in unnecessary
44 costs to the taxpayers and a low voter turnout historically seen in these elections, and create
45 significant administrative issues; and

46
47 WHEREAS, these elections were described by the Ohio Secretary of State as “unnecessary
48 and not good for taxpayers, election officials, voters or the civic health of our state” and declared,
49 “it’s time for them to go!”

50
51
52

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-117
PAGE TWO

WHEREAS, the Ohio Senate passed S.B. 92 on April 19, 2023 and it was introduced in the Ohio House on April 20, 2023.

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County to oppose the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 92.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1

This Council opposes proposed changes to Ohio Revised Code Section 3501.022 as contained in Ohio Senate Bill 92 that would reverse changes made in H.B. 458 and declare a special election on August 8, 2023.

SECTION 2

The Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Ohio Secretary of State, the Ohio Speaker of the House, the Ohio Senate President, and the Summit County delegation of the Ohio General Assembly.

SECTION 3

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County of Summit and for the further reason to immediately authorize any of the aforementioned settlements to occur in a timely fashion and in accordance with applicable laws and rules governing such settlements.

SECTION 4

Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

SECTION 5

It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-117
PAGE THREE

INTRODUCED April 24, 2023

ADOPTED April 24, 2023

DocuSigned by:
Lauren Marsh
F8D2DB132BE041B
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:
Veronica R Sims
2E89E22ECAF4A4AA
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED April 24, 2023

DocuSigned by:
Steve Shapiro
CB033E400287473...
EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 25, 2023

Voice Vote - YES: 8-3: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Schmidt, Sims, Walters, Wiedie Higham, Wilhite

NO: DeVitis, McKenney, Rodgers