RESOLUTION NO. _______2014-149_____

SPONSORS Mr. Pry, Ms. Lee, Mr. Schmidt,
Mr. Feehan, Ms. Prentice, Ms. Shapiro,
Ms. Kurt, Mr. Kostandaras, Mr. Comunale, Mr. Crawford

DATE March 17, 2014

Committee Rules

A Resolution opposing the passage of SB 205 which restricts the mailing of absentee ballot applications and SB 238 which reduces the early voting period and urging our state legislators to challenge the legislation in federal court as a violation of the U.S. Constitution’s equal protection clause, for the Executive and Council, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2014, Governor Kasich signed into law SB 205 and SB 238, which shorten the early voting period and restrict unsolicited absentee ballot applications mailings; and

WHEREAS, SB 205 restricts the mailing of absentee ballot applications to permit only the Secretary of State to mail unsolicited ballot applications to voters and only with funding from the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, SB 238 eliminates the six early voting days when people can register to vote and cast an in-person absentee ballot at the same time; and

WHEREAS, reducing early voting days will disenfranchise voters and lead to longer lines at the polls; and

WHEREAS; these bills are unnecessary and will suppress the votes of many people who deeply value this hard-won right; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to oppose the passage of SB 205 and SB 238 which reduces the early voting period and urge our state legislators to challenge the legislation in federal court as a violation of the U.S. Constitution’s equal protection clause;

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

SECTION 1

This Council opposes the passage of SB 205 which restricts the mailing of absentee ballot applications and SB 238 which reduces the early voting period, and urges our state legislators to challenge the legislation in federal court as a violation of the U.S. Constitution’s equal protection clause.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of immediately opposing the passage of SB 205 and SB 238.
SECTION 3

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 4

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 Codes.

INTRODUCED March 17, 2014

ADOPTED March 17, 2014

CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED March 18, 2014

EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE March 18, 2014

Voice Vote: 8-2 YES: Comunale, Feeman, Kostandaras, Kurt, Lee Prentice, Schmidt, Shapiro
NO: Rodgers, Roemer
ABSENT: Crawford