

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MT. JULIET, TENNESSEE, URGING THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO PARTY AFFILIATION IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND PROMOTE CANDIDATE TRANSPARENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Juliet is committed to ensuring a fair, and transparent, election process that reflects the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, currently, candidates in municipal elections are required to run as independents, thereby preventing them from officially affiliating with or declaring support for a political party in a way that is transparent to voters; and

WHEREAS, transparency is a fundamental principle, and voters have the right to know the political affiliations of candidates for local office, as it provides important context about their values, policies, and governance philosophy; and

WHEREAS, allowing candidates for municipal office to affiliate openly with a political party would align local election procedures with the practices of ALL other elections, where candidates are permitted to declare party affiliation if they choose; and

WHEREAS, removing the barriers that prevent municipal candidates from affiliating with political parties would provide voters with a clearer understanding of candidates' positions, thereby increasing the accountability and trustworthiness of municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, promoting transparency and allowing political affiliation in municipal elections would empower voters with more complete information about those who seek to represent them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee:

- 1. The City of Mt. Juliet calls upon its State Delegation at the Tennessee General Assembly to take legislative action to remove the barriers that currently require municipal candidates to run as independents and to permit candidates to affiliate or not affiliate with a political party of their choice.**
- 2. The City of Mt. Juliet supports increased transparency in municipal elections. To foster a more open and informed election process, municipal candidates should be allowed to declare their party affiliations.**
- 3. The City Recorder is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Mt. Juliet delegation in the Tennessee General Assembly, urging them to introduce and support legislation that promotes transparency and allows political party affiliation in municipal elections.**

PASSED:

FIRST READING:

James Maness, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheila S. Lockett, MMC

City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kenneth Martin, City Manager

Samantha A. Burnett

City Attorney