

Draft Resolution by the Board of Directors to the Membership of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF), Introduced in September of 2020 and decided upon in October 2020

- ***To establish an Arlington County Governance Reform Task Force***

- Whereas in 2020, the State of Virginia passed laws (VA HB 1103 HB 506) permitting Arlington County to use Ranked Choice Voting in its local elections;
- Whereas no significant review or changes have been made to our system of government since 1930, when Arlington had 25,000 residents;
- Whereas there may be opportunities to increase citizen involvement in county affairs and improvement in the quality of County Board and School Board decision-making through election or representation reforms;
- Whereas the county board and school board serve at-large and are both 5 in number for 250,000 residents;
- Whereas the ACCF is the best entity to conduct a community-led assessment of our elections and representation after 90 years;

Therefore, the Arlington County Civic Federation shall establish an ad-hoc task force to re-examine our county governing bodies that will deliver recommendations for potential structural reforms for governance as well as county board and school board representation if any is warranted. The Task Force will examine and potentially make recommendations on reforms which might include:

- 1) Structural reform through district representation and/or multi-member synchronous elections;
- 2) The size and/or remuneration of our county board and/or school boards;
- 3) Ranked choice voting for County Board and School Board general elections;
- 4) The future role of primaries and caucuses;
- 5) Options for alternative electoral mechanisms besides first-past-the-post and ranked choice.
- 6) Term Limits

Principals that will inform the Task Force's work will include, but not be limited by the following:

- To improve the quality of our elected officials' representation and policy making,
- To improve citizen engagement and voter turnout,
- To improve our Board's ability to reflect the opinion and diversity of our communities
- To improve the quality and diversity (more choices--more voices) of our candidates and campaigns.

The composition of the Arlington County Governance Review Task Force will be nominated by the president of the Civic Federation. The President may include non-Civic Federation members to ensure a broad representation of stakeholders. The Task Force composition will be approved by the Civic Federation members, with any subsequent vacancies filled by the Board of Directors. The size of the Task Force will be from 9 to 15 people.

The Task Force will provide a report within one year that will be subject to ACCF membership approval. ACCF will determine whether to extend or revise the mandate of the Task Force. Before coming to final recommendations, the Task force may, in the fall of 2020, ask the county

and school boards, to request state legislation giving Arlington additional flexibility to pursue possible reforms.

To the extent possible, the Task Force will encourage public engagement, but the Task Force will have broad latitude to pursue a process that will achieve the purpose of this resolution. The Task Force may request administrative or operational funding from the Board of Directors or seek outside funding with Board oversight.

Introduced by ACCF Delegates Dave Schutz, and Michael Beer, and co-sponsored by ACCF Board members, Michael Cantwell, John Vihstadt and Stacy Meyer
July 17, 2020