

RESOLUTION NO. 20190207-031

WHEREAS, the first City Council under the 10-1 governance system commenced a practice of voting on agenda items by raising hands; and

WHEREAS, Council currently uses a raised-hand process, and there may be improvements or best practices that ensure reliable record-keeping and convey results to the public in a timely and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, at its first meeting of 2015, the new 10-1 Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20150129023 to create a Council-appointed Task Force on Community Engagement, which was charged with developing recommendations to improve community engagement in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, in March 2016, the Task Force submitted a 115-page report with five central themes; each theme included a set of recommendations to improve and enhance community engagement; and

WHEREAS, one recommendation called for Council to use electronic voting on all agenda items; and

WHEREAS, during a Government That Works For All briefing at the December 11, 2018 Council work session, a discussion on electronic voting reflected a lack of consensus on whether to continue with a raised-hand voting practice, transform to electronic voting, or employ a combination of both; and

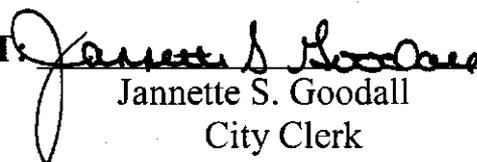
WHEREAS, other city councils in large Texas cities rely on either electronic voting or voice vote, with the cities of San Antonio and El Paso consistently utilizing electronic votes on all agenda decisions; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager and the City Clerk are directed to work together to identify best practices for timely, immediately visible (or audible, such as via roll call), transparent, and efficient voting procedures in Council chambers, types of technology available for electronic voting, including fiscal implications, and options for archiving recorded votes that are easily accessible to the public; and to report back to Council with findings and recommendations by the end of May.

ADOPTED: February 7, 2019

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk