

RESOLUTION NO. 20200409-078

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America call upon Americans to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two states allow voting-by-mail for all their voters and three states conduct their entire elections by mail; and

WHEREAS, Texas law currently restricts voting-by-mail to seniors, voters with disabilities, and voters who are out of the state during an election; and

WHEREAS, Section 82.002 of the Texas Election Code states that a "qualified voter is eligible for early voting by mail if the voter has a sickness or physical condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health"; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic has created a situation in which regular polling location practices in Texas would not fall along health and safety guidelines laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters Texas and other civic groups have broad adoption of vote-by-mail provisions in upcoming elections; and

WHEREAS, holding all-mail elections is the only option that guarantees Texans' right to vote while also protecting public health; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to the safety, health, and welfare of all of its residents; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

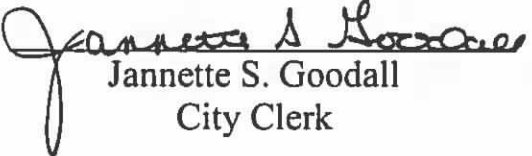
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

City Council implores the Texas Governor and the Texas Secretary of State to protect the voting rights of all Texas voters and to protect the public health of all Texans by permitting voting-by-mail for all voters eligible to vote in Texas elections during this crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council directs the City Manager to send a copy of this Resolution to the Travis, Williamson, and Hays County delegation of the Texas House and Senate, the

Texas Governor, the Texas Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and the Texas Secretary of State.

ADOPTED: April 9, 2020 **ATTEST:** 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk