

EXHIBIT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1

21  
6-13-09

~~6~~  
~~5-16-09~~

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: MAY 12, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES L. BANKS, JR., CITY ATTORNEY

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION CYCLE

---

ISSUE: Consideration of an ordinance to change the election of the Mayor and City Council to the November general election cycle.

RECOMMENDATION: None

DISCUSSION: On February 13, 2008, Mayor William D. Euille and Councilman Justin M. Wilson submitted a memorandum to the members of the City Council analyzing various issues (including the changing of the election date). The matter was deferred for later consideration and action.

Va. Code § 24.2-221.1 (1950 as amended) authorizes a city or town to move its election for Mayor and Council to the November general election date. Once the elections are moved to the November cycle, the then newly elected officials will commence their term on the January 1 immediately following the election. The code provision is a general grant of authority and does not appear to require any further Charter amendment.

The grant of authority is a limited one on the face of the statute. It provides that the elections may be moved from May to November but does not grant any authority to move the elections back from November to May. There is also an alternative proceeding that is authorized whereby the registered voters of the city or town may file a petition with the circuit court asking for a referendum on the question of changing the election to the November general election cycle. The two procedures are exclusive of each other and either one may be used.

Finally, if the elections are moved to the November cycle, the Mayor and Council Members then in office at the time of the new November cycle shall continue to serve until their successors have been elected and qualified to serve.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Ordinance and Memorandum from Mayor William D. Euille & Councilman Justin M. Wilson to City Council, February 12, 2008, ELECTION REFORM.

STAFF: James L. Banks, Jr., City Attorney, Christina Zechman Brown, Assistant City Attorney

G:\DOCUMENT\DATA\ORD\electionmemo.doc

Introduction and first reading: 5/16/09

Public hearing:

Second reading and enactment:

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to adopt Section 2-2-1 (NOVEMBER ELECTION OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEN) of the Code of The City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981 as amended.

Summary

The proposed ordinance changes the election of the Mayor and City Council from the May general election cycle to the November general election cycle.

Sponsor

Justin M. Wilson, Councilman

Staff

James L. Banks, Jr., City Attorney  
Christina Zechman Brown, Assistant City Attorney

Authority

Va. Code § 24.2-221.1 (1950 as amended)

Estimated Costs of Implementation

None

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

Memorandum from Mayor William D. Euille & Councilman Justin M. Wilson to City Council, February 12, 2008, ELECTION REFORM

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE to change the date of the election of the Mayor and City Council from the May general election date to the November general election date.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the Charter of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, § 10.01, 1950 as amended ("Charter"), provides that the election of the Mayor and City Council be held during the May general election cycle every third year after May, 1973.

Section 2. That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia granted to the council of a city or town with a charter that provided for the election of a mayor and council the right to change those elections to the November general election date by properly adopted ordinance of said city or town. Va. Code § 24.2-222.1 (1950 as amended).

Section 3. That the election of the Mayor and City Council of Alexandria shall take place in the November general election cycle starting in November 2012 and continuing every third year thereafter.

Section 4. That Section 2-2-1 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981 as amended, be, and the same is hereby is adopted to read as follows:

Sec. 2-2-1 November election of mayor and councilmen.

The mayor and council shall be elected at the November general election date every third year beginning in 2012. The terms of office for those so elected shall commence on January 1 immediately following said election.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE  
Mayor

Introduction: 5/16/09  
First Reading:  
Publication:  
Public Hearing:  
Second Reading:  
Final Passage:

ORDINANCE NO. 4596

AN ORDINANCE to change the date of the election of the mayor and city council from the May general election date to the November general election date.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the Charter of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, § 10.01, 1950 as amended (“Charter”), provides that the election of the mayor and city council be held during the May general election cycle every third year after May, 1973.

Section 2. That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia granted to the council of a city or town with a charter that provided for the election of a mayor and council the right to change those elections to the November general election date by properly adopted ordinance of said city or town. Va. Code § 24.2-222.1 (1950 as amended).

Section 3. That the election of the mayor and city council of Alexandria shall take place in the November general election cycle starting in November 2012 and continuing every third year thereafter.

Section 4. That Section 2-2-1 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981 as amended, be, and the same is hereby adopted to read as follows:

Sec. 2-2-1 November election of mayor and councilmen.

The mayor and council shall be elected at the November general election date every third year beginning in 2012. The terms of office for those so elected shall commence on January 1 immediately following said election.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE  
Mayor

Final Passage: June 13, 2009

21  
6-13-09



Steve Johnson  
<virginiano1@comcast.net>

06/13/2009 08:38 AM

Please respond to  
Steve Johnson  
<virginiano1@comcast.net>

To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: moving city elections to November

**COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members**

Time: [Sat Jun 13, 2009 08:38:39] IP Address: [98.204.143.209]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Steve

**Last Name:** Johnson

**Street Address:** 327 N. Latham St.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:** 703-370-3590

**Email Address:** virginiano1@comcast.net

**Subject:** moving city elections to November

As one of those unfortunately rare voters who makes it a point to vote in every election, I strongly support moving the city council/mayor/school board elections to November, and to make these 4-year terms coincident with Congressional/Presidential elections, or preferably with VA statewide elections.

In a time of serious budget constraints, the expense to the city of holding separate elections strikes me as inefficient and wasteful.

While I understand the counter-argument that city races would get 'lost in the crowd', I think the same thing occurs now: people don't see council and school board races as important enough to be worth a

**Comments:** separate trip to the polls. Either that or -a kazillion yard and boulevard signs notwithstanding- voters have completely tuned out the off-cycle elections.

With all due respect to the newly-elected city councillors affiliated with the Republican Party, I find GOP chair Marston's published quotations (this is a cynical ploy by the Democratic party to lock down

21  
6-13-09



**Bert Ely** <bert@ely-co.com>

06/12/2009 04:11 PM

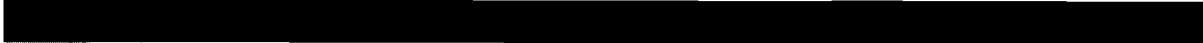
Please respond to  
Bert Ely <bert@ely-co.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: I oppose moving Council elections to November



**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 16:11:50] **IP Address:** [70.108.251.74]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Bert  
**Last Name:** Ely  
**Street Address:** 200 South Pitt Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-836-4101  
**Email Address:** bert@ely-co.com  
**Subject:** I oppose moving Council elections to November  
To the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and members of the Alexandria City Council:

I  
am writing to oppose, in the strongest possible terms, the shift of City  
Council elections from May to November. While turnout in the Council  
elections has been low, the present separation of Council elections from  
state and federal elections permits voters to focus their attention on  
local issues when deciding who to vote for Council. Moving Council  
elections to November may increase the number of votes cast in the Council  
races, but local issues will be swamped by state and federal issues.

**Comments:** Hence, there will be a diminished public debate over all-important local  
issues.  
Additionally, it is highly inappropriate for the outgoing  
Council to vote on this matter. At a minimum, any consideration of a move  
of Council elections to November should be postponed until the new Council  
is sworn in.

Respectively submitted,

Bert Ely



21  
6-13-09



"Poul Hertel"  
<poulh@erols.com>  
06/12/2009 03:44 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

Dear Jackie

**Please find attached my comments RE: 21. Public Hearing, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to Change the Election of the Mayor and City Council to the November General Election Cycle. (#6, 5/16/09, #31, 6/24/08, #29, 5/13/08, #3, 6/14/08)**

**Sincerely**



**Poul Hertel** election studies.pdf

POUL MARTIN HERTEL

# WHY THE VOTES COUNT

---

*HOW TO INCREASE FAIRNESS IN VOTER  
PARTICIPATION*

# VOTER PARTICIPATION

---

## WHY VOTING IS IMPORTANT

---

Voter turnout has been a problem from the very beginning. Even the inventors of democracy in ancient Athens had to let election officials corral voters with a red-dyed rope, herding them from the marketplace to the Assembly's voting area at the nearby Pnyx. Athenian officials in later years simply paid voters to attend the Assembly's. In contemporary Italy, those who fail to vote face the prospect of having their names posted by the mayor on the communal notice wall and of being branded a nonvoter in official papers. In California, a voting stub obtained after casting a ballot has entitled voters to a free half-dozen "Yum-Yum" doughnuts.

Carrots and sticks have been employed to increase voter turnout since the birth of democracy, in reaction to what rational choice theorists have termed "the paradox of voting": given the infinitesimal chance that one's own vote could affect the outcome of most elections or the stability of the electoral system, it often appears rational to abstain from voting. The paradox facing rational choice scholars is that many people do vote in the absence of visible carrots or sticks, although not in the same numbers in comparable elections or across state or national boundaries.

A defining feature of advanced democracies is universal suffrage: Everyone has the right to vote. However, not everyone exercises this right and voter turnout varies considerably, both over time and across countries and individuals. This variation is not random; across individuals, it is a stylized fact of the empirical voter turnout literature that better educated individuals participate more frequently in elections, as do those with greater wealth and higher incomes (Wolfinger and Rosenstone 1980).

"Unequal participation, whether in general elections or in direct democracy settings, has an important implication: First and foremost, political participation is an instrument of representation and, therefore, unequal participation can distort the pattern of representation necessary for democratic responsiveness, leading to real effects on policy outcomes. In an encompassing survey of voter turnout across countries and over time, Lijphart (1997, 1) concludes that "unequal participation spells unequal influence," and this stylized fact forms the basis of recent political economy models such as Benabou (2000). Second, participatory inequality is a problem if democratic participation is seen as an intrinsic good (Pateman, 1970) in addition to its role as a representational instrument, and it may create doubts about the democratic legitimacy of a given political setting."<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> David Dreyer Lassen : The Effect of Information on Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Natural Experiment , **EPRU Working Paper Series** (financed by a grant from The National Research Foundation)

---

## VOTER REGISTRATION

---

Voter registration was introduced as a means of preventing voter fraud, but previous studies had concluded that a side effect was to reduce voter participation significantly (5%-10%). An extensive scholarly document identifies registration as a substantial barrier to voting. The logic is simple enough. Crudely put, people weigh the benefits of voting against the cost, and the higher the cost, the lower the participation rate (see for example Rosenstone, Steven J. and John Mark Hansen, 1993, *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*, New York: MacMillan Publishing Company). For some people, registration represents one more hassle that they do not feel strongly enough about to address. Others do not think to register until the final week of campaigning piques their interest in the election, long after registration deadlines have passed.

By use of more robust methodology and wider comparative, Ansolabehere and Konisky<sup>2</sup> conclude that the voter registration does have an effect, but that it is much smaller than what people think; in the range of 3% to 4%.

The authors conclude that reformers' disappointment about the modest impacts of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) and other electoral reforms (Traugott, 2004<sup>3</sup>) might reflect biases in previous statistical estimates of the effects of registration on turnout, rather than failures of the laws. They draw an even more important conclusion that early on, voter registration did indeed negate the rampant voter fraud that was taking place, and therefore, it did reveal a significant impact in the early studies. But this is an effect that has significantly subsided as the fraud effect disappeared and in the long run, the cost effect having been isolated turns out to be quite small.

---

## INFORMATION IS KEY

---

**“Empirical estimates based on survey data confirm a sizeable and statistically significant causal effect of being informed on the propensity to vote”<sup>4</sup>**

---

<sup>2</sup> Stephen Ansolabehere and David M. Konisky from the Department of Political Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology wrote a paper in February 2004 titled “The Introduction of Voter Registration and Its Effect on Turnout”.

<sup>3</sup> Traugott, Michael W., 2004, “Why Electoral Reform Has Failed: If You Build It, Will They Come?” In: *Rethinking The Vote: The Politics and Prospects of American Election Reform*, eds. Ann N. Crigler, Marion I. Just, and Edward J. McCaffery, New York: Oxford University Press.

<sup>4</sup> David Dreyer Lassen : The Effect of Information on Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Natural Experiment , EPRU Working Paper Series (financed by a grant from The National Research Foundation)

The scientific efforts to understand why voters turn out, or not as the case may be, begins with observed empirical regularities. Based in large measure on work performed by Wolfinger and Rosenstone (1980)<sup>5</sup> which looked at education as a predictor of voting, Feddersen and Pesendorfer (1996, 1999)<sup>6</sup> argue that informational differences among voters can help explain the observed variation in political participation.

In their models of single issue elections, uninformed citizens' optimal choice can be to abstain from voting, even if they prefer one alternative to the other (the swing voter's curse). Instead, they effectively delegate decision-making powers to informed voters, thereby increasing the likelihood of the optimal policy being chosen. Matsusaka (1995)<sup>7</sup> and Ghirardato and Katz (2002)<sup>8</sup> also consider the effects of being informed on the propensity to vote, but their explanation relies on subjective uncertainty about the quality of information and, hence, the risk of making the wrong decision, rather than through the strategic reasoning applied in Feddersen and Pesendorfer.

David Dreyer Lassen parleys this parleys this information into a complete seminal work in which he is able to discern the effect of directly educating a voter group about a referendum and compare it with a group that was not. He concludes that;

“Theoretical work, with roots in observational empirical studies of voter behavior, has argued that being informed affects the propensity to vote. Using a unique natural experiment referendum, where a random fraction of the electorate was exogenously informed, the empirical analysis presented in this paper suggests that information acquisition is endogenous and demonstrates that there is a causal effect of being informed on the propensity to vote in a referendum setting. **The estimated effect is considerable: I find that the average treatment effect of being informed on the propensity to vote is 20 percentage points, which is more than the effect estimated by conventional methods.**”<sup>9</sup>

This study further explains the often quoted relationship between the level of education and voting, because the more educated education enters directly into the calculus of voting by educing expected utility costs associated with voter registration and information acquisition, rather than through contextual or socialization effects.

---

<sup>5</sup> Wolfinger, Raymond E. and Steven J. Rosenstone. 1980. *Who Votes?* New Haven: Yale University Press

<sup>6</sup> Feddersen, Timothy and Wolfgang Pesendorfer. 1999. “Abstention in Elections with Asymmetric Information and Diverse Preferences.” *American Political Science Review* 93(2):381-98.

<sup>7</sup> Matsusaka, John G. 1995. “Explaining Voter Turnout Patterns: An Information Theory.” *Public Choice* 84(1-2):91-117.

<sup>8</sup> Ghirardato, Paolo and Jonathan N. Katz. 2002. “Indecision Theory: Quality of Information and Voting Behavior.” *Social Science Working Paper 1106R*, California Institute of Technology.

<sup>9</sup> David Dreyer Lassen : *The Effect of Information on Voter Turnout*:

---

## NORM BASED VOTING SOMETHING WRONG IN THAT ARGUMENT

---

William Ricker and Peter Odershook using data collected by the Survey Center at University of Michigan (national Election Study) drew the conclusion that there was a strong correlation between voting and “sense of patriotic duty”.<sup>10</sup> This led to a host of studies into the field of comparing voting to a consumption article and the utility of feeling good about having voted.

This line argument has since been superseded by informational voting view found on page 4. Nevertheless, it is precisely the genesis for Governor Gilmore and the Republican state legislature deciding to grant Local jurisdictions the ability to move the Local elections to coincide with State and Federal.

The State and Federal elections have a higher turnout and the norm based explanation is that the Civic Duty is higher for those elections. Therefore, the logic goes that by coinciding them, voters will vote for the local as well as the State and Federal while in the booth. Recall that Virginia was a heavily leaning Republican state at the time the Republicans enacted this proviso. So, it is entirely fair to conclude it was designed largely on the belief that as the Federal goes so will the Local.

This is a rather simplistic election policy view, especially in light of the studies that have demonstrated the value of educating the voters about the issues. It is also why deep down the vast majority, including the task force created by the Mayor to study this issue, conclude that by moving the election date, the local issues will be lost. Current science tells us that it is dissemination of information not marginalization that will matter. The voters have national outlets for dissemination of national election information, the local have far fewer, which explains the disparate turnout. Further increasing the cost of getting information on local elections by marginalizing the local information flow does not help.

*In essence it is not the cost of physically going to the polls that matter, it is the cost of getting acquainted with the issues that does.*

---

<sup>10</sup> A Theory of the Calculus of Voting, 62 American Political Science Review, 25, 28 (1968)

21  
6-13-09



**Antonio Longo**  
<alongopr51@aol.com>

06/12/2009 03:26 PM

Please respond to  
Antonio Longo  
<alongopr51@aol.com>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Moving municipal elections from May to November

**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 15:26:24] IP Address: [205.188.116.77]**

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Antonio  
**Last Name:** Longo  
**Street Address:** 4014 Fort Worth Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-370-5199  
**Email Address:** alongopr51@aol.com  
**Subject:** Moving municipal elections from May to November  
Please be advised that we are against moving the municipal elections from May to November. Keeping this elections separate from state wide elections  
**Comments:** allow the people of Alexandria to better concentrate on municipal issues important to them.  
Antonio and Teresa Longo

21  
6-13-09



**Judith McVay**  
<judymcvay@verizon.net>

06/12/2009 02:17 PM

Please respond to  
Judith McVay  
<judymcvay@verizon.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: June 13, 2009 Public Hearing, Docket Item #21



**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 14:17:31] **IP Address:** [96.231.77.221]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Judith  
**Last Name:** McVay  
**Street Address:** 207 North Columbus Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314-2411  
**Phone:** 7036836943  
**Email Address:** judymcvay@verizon.net  
**Subject:** June 13, 2009 Public Hearing, Docket Item #21

I ask that you do not change our city elections from May to November.

As you all know, it is difficult enough to run a campaign when the only people running are for six City Council seats, the mayor's seat, and the nine School Board positions. It is difficult to find campaign workers or volunteers, raise money and to garner consideration in a field of so many other candidates.

I haven't done the computing, but there is, I am sure, a very likely chance of compounding this untenable situation by having our city elections conflict with national and state elections at points in the future.

We could have two people running for mayor, 12 people running for city council, 18 people running for the school board, two presidential candidates, four congressional candidates and two senatorial candidates all on the ballot at one time. That would be 40



names on the ballot in one election! Then there are the elections of Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, state senators, state delegates, Commonwealth Attorney, sheriff and Clerk of the Court.

**Comments:**

When the election cycle coincides with state or national election, this action would make it very near impossible for the voters to stay informed and be able to focus on our city's issues and candidates. And this doesn't even address the likelihood of there being other referenda or initiatives on which to vote on the same ballot.

How in the world is a voter supposed to sort this out? Can you just imagine the number of signs!

A local newspaper has been running a poll to see what the citizens think. The last result I saw was 89.7% voting no to moving the elections to 10.3% voting yes for the move. Realizing, of course, that this is not a scientific poll and there is a certain margin of error, it is still a very overwhelming number and should be clear to anyone what the voters want.

I ask you to please follow the advice of your own non-partisan commission, appointed by you, which recommended against this move in a 7 to 2 vote. A move like this by a lame-duck council is unconscionable. At the very least, put this on the ballot at our next election and let the voters decide.



**Paul Stevens**  
<wstd@comcast.net>

06/12/2009 02:14 PM

Please respond to  
Paul Stevens  
<wstd@comcast.net>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Proposed ordinance to move elections from May to November

21  
6-13-09

**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 14:14:59] **IP Address:** [198.6.202.77]

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Paul  
**Last Name:** Stevens  
**Street Address:** 630 South Fairfax Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-838-0686  
**Email Address:** wstd@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Proposed ordinance to move elections from May to November  
I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposal to move local elections from May to November. Doing so would further complicate an already crowded November ballot, and detract from the sharp focus on local  
**Comments:** city races that the May ballot provides by shoehorning them into state and national races and issues. This would be counter-productive, in my view, and the Council accordingly should reject this proposal. Thank you for considering my views. Respectfully, Paul Stevens.



Clark MCCURDY  
<cmdmcd@comcast.net>

06/12/2009 01:32 PM

Please respond to  
Clark MCCURDY  
<cmdmcd@comcast.net>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: CHANGING ELECTION DATE FOR CITY COUNCIL

21  
6-13-09

Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 13:32:29] IP Address: [69.140.67.64]

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Clark  
**Last Name:** MCCURDY  
**Street Address:** 2804 Valley Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-931-7355  
**Email Address:** cmdmcd@comcast.net  
**Subject:** CHANGING ELECTION DATE FOR CITY COUNCIL  
I am certainly not in favor of changing the date for the election of city council and office of mayor to a different date. This is a tyrannical move by the party who now controls the positions of city council members and office of the mayor. It seems to me that this motion should be against a local or state law because it is purely a political move by the majority party now in office. Regardless of what party is in the majority I would certainly oppose such a tyrannical move. VOTE AGAINST the motion of moving the date for the May election of city council and mayorpositions. As concerned citizens of a democracy you should not want to see "social communism" be the political philosophy of free citizens.  
**Comments:**  
Thank  
you.  
Sincerely yours,  
C. MCCURDY

21  
6-13-09



**Jonathan Krall**  
<jonathan@dcsma.org>

06/12/2009 01:24 PM

Please respond to  
Jonathan Krall  
<jonathan@dcsma.org>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Please move local elections to November



**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 13:24:24] **IP Address:** [132.250.22.4]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Jonathan  
**Last Name:** Krall  
**Street Address:** 534 E Duncan Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7035283517  
**Email Address:** jonathan@dcsma.org

**Subject:** Please move local elections to November  
Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to give my support to the idea of moving local elections from May to November. There is a lot of speculation as to whether this will help or hurt the public discourse or either of the two main political parties in Alexandria. I personally believe that increasing voter participation is always a good idea.

**Comments:** There is one point that is not disputed: moving the election will save money. Please do so.

Thankyou for your time and attention.

Best Regards,

Jonathan

Krall  
Alexandria, VA 22301-1256



Lee Hernly  
<lee@leehernly.com>

06/12/2009 12:18 PM

Please respond to  
Lee Hernly <lee@leehernly.com>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Moving the City Elections

21  
6-13-09

**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 12:18:17] IP Address: [155.178.6.10]**

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Lee  
**Last Name:** Hernly  
**Street Address:** 2121 Jamieson Ave  
Unit 806  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7035418134  
**Email Address:** lee@leehernly.com  
**Subject:** Moving the City Elections

This is wrong on so many fronts, I do not know where to begin.

Moving

the spring elections from May to November will drown out the local candidates. Did anyone notice how many times Barack Obama was on the airwaves during the runup to the recent general election? Local candidates will not get their proper voice. And do we really want Congressman Moran's signs, his opponents signs, the Senate candidates signs, the Presidential candidate signs, and our local officials signs littering our streets at the same time? No.

As Sanford Horn stated in his great piece in the  
Alexandria Times...

"Retaining May for local elections is vital for voters  
to become familiar with the candidates and the candidates to spend time  
hearing the concerns of their potential constituents. Governance at the  
most local level is the most effective. Elected leaders are closer to their  
constituents, live in the same neighborhoods and are affected by the same

issues.”

One argument is this move will save dollars.

Yes, it costs

the City money everytime an election is held. This year the City of Alexandria has spent somewhere around \$300,000 on the elections. However, this has not been a normal year with the general election, the special elections and the primaries. Normally, the expenditure is between \$60,000 and \$120,000.

**Comments:**

Another argument is the number of people voting is down.

Yes, voting in the May elections is down from 41% in the 80's to around 15% now. The recent Governor's primary saw 13.4% turnout. In my view, I haven't voted some years in Alexandria due to a lack of quality candidates and the current Governor's race is no exception. There was not a real good candidate in the Democratic primary for Governor so you saw only the hard-core voters come out and vote.

Now, here's one idea which is popular in most areas of the country. For something this important, if something of this magnitude MUST be decided this Saturday, let the voters themselves decide. Decide to post it as a referendum on the upcoming fall election and let the voters themselves decide.

If you decide to press ahead with the issue at least do the right thing by tabling this issue until the new Council is sworn in at the beginning of July. After all, aren't local officials are supposed to listen to their constituents?

Here's hoping the current City Council does just that.

Thank

you,

Lee Hernly

21  
6-13-09



Richard Henry  
<richardhenry@gmail.com>

06/12/2009 12:11 PM

Please respond to  
Richard Henry  
<richardhenry@gmail.com>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Moving Local Elections-NO!



Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 12:11:29] IP Address: [24.126.104.18]

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Richard  
**Last Name:** Henry  
**Street Address:** 121 Prince Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-399-5458  
**Email Address:** richardhenry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Moving Local Elections-NO!

I am adamantly opposed to moving our local election from May to November.

Our local issues would be swamped by the state-wide and national races carrying their parties' messages and crowd out our elected officials by big-money politics.

If we are interested in voter turn-out, I propose a simple solution. Pay people to vote. This can be accomplished by various methods: a city tax credit, a modest \$x reduction in city fees for an application or a parking ticket, or even through local merchants.

**Comments:** Merchants could offer coupons worth dollars off at their establishments for goods and services. This last possibility would be free. The city-funded options would cost less than more studies of the subject.

People not motivated enough by the important political issues our local election ballot would be motivated by money. It works in 3rd world countries; it will work in Alexandria.

Richard Henry

21  
6-13-09



Stephen Newman  
<lensman1r@yahoo.com>

06/12/2009 12:11 PM

Please respond to  
Stephen Newman  
<lensman1r@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Change of Council Election Date



Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 12:11:17] IP Address: [72.66.36.215]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Stephen

**Last Name:** Newman

**Street Address:** 648 Timber Branch Parkway

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22302

**Phone:** 7035489485

**Email Address:** lensman1r@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Change of Council Election Date

Please add this to those wanting to retain the current May date for Council elections. To all the reasons already placed in favor of retaining the separate date, please consider this:  
While moving election to November, there is no evidence that anything would be gained other than additional numbers of voters casting ballots -- as long as they were there at the polling booth. This is insufficient for those of us that would rather have informed voters who take an interest be counted, rather than mere increased numbers being the objective. To those of us who like the idea of "direct democracy," there is no inconvenience/hardship giving attention to local issues/elections separately in May. If the contrary is "I am too busy to give attention to elections in May," where is the evidence this person would give any more attention in September -- with everything else that's on the November ballot? Also, there is nothing

**Comments:**



wrong/unacceptably low with the Council voting participation numbers --  
especially if no one contested the last miniscule turnout for State House  
of Delegates.  
To this 33 year resident, here is merit in keeping  
at least this aspect of direct democracy alive in Alexandria.

Steve Newman



Mary Ann Shelton  
<mashelton@hotmail.com>

06/12/2009 11:46 AM

Please respond to  
Mary Ann Shelton  
<mashelton@hotmail.com>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: May versus November elections

21  
6-13-09

**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 11:46:29] **IP Address:** [166.203.254.115]

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Mary Ann  
**Last Name:** Shelton  
**Street Address:** 1200 Braddock Place #703  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 571 451-8300  
**Email Address:** mashelton@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** May versus November elections

Dear Clerk of Council,

Please let stand the current election schedule of  
holding local elections in Spring.

This schedule allows local Alexandria  
candidates with small budgets to hold debates in schools and other settings  
after the  
national campaigns, and meet voters and campaign and advertise  
their candidacies without being drowned out by big national  
campaigns.

It is disturbing that the current 100% democrat council has  
made changing election schedules their urgent priority.

**Comments:**

I've lived in  
Alexandria nearly 20 years under Democrat one party rule, and no one I know  
has ever brought up this issue,  
especially during the WORST ECONOMY in my  
lifetime. I can only conclude partisan self-preservation is the goal, as

this  
issue doesn't improve our economy or bring any jobs to Alexandria.

Thank you for your service to Alexandrians.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann

Shelton

21  
6-13-09



**Linda Couture**  
<lindalcouture@aol.com>

06/12/2009 11:45 AM

Please respond to  
Linda Couture  
<lindalcouture@aol.com>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Election Change

**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 11:45:07] IP Address: [72.66.41.8]**

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Linda  
**Last Name:** Couture  
**Street Address:** 505 Duke Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-299-9215  
**Email Address:** lindalcouture@aol.com  
**Subject:** Election Change

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

There is no compelling

reason to change the election month, and there are many reasons why this

subject is premature at this point in time. You are all well aware of

the task force's outcome (bi-partisan membership noted), as well as a

recent poll being conducted by the Alexandria Times that shows

**Comments:** overwhelming numbers to keep the May elections.

I'm sure we can count on

you to respect the democratic process and deny any proposal to change the date.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Couture



**John Eisenhour**  
<emerald\_dragon@hotmail.com>  
>

06/12/2009 11:27 AM

Please respond to  
John Eisenhour  
<emerald\_dragon@hotmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: June 13 Public Hearing Docket # 21

21  
6-13-09

**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 11:27:19] IP Address: [98.204.140.33]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** John  
**Last Name:** Eisenhour  
**Street Address:** 630 South Pitt Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-836-0430  
**Email Address:** emerald\_dragon@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** June 13 Public Hearing Docket # 21  
Honorable Lady and Gentlemen --

I have attached the one page handout  
that I will give to you at the Saturday hearing. It covers the most  
important reasons why Council elections should be moved to November.  
As  
you may remember, I have been vocal about this matter for a long time and I  
know from these conversations that each of you understands the key  
considerations completely. So, when I do testify I will focus on some  
**Comments:** relatively minor aspects that are unlikely to be raised by other speakers.

However, my choice of subject matter should not be construed to mean  
that my feelings about the essentially non-democratic dimension of the May  
election scheme has changed. The idea -- that November elections would be  
partisan but "plunking" in May is not partisan -- is simply self  
serving nonsense.

John Howard Eisenhower

**Attachment:** 251987ec5c6401d180b45e992f5cb737.doc



251987ec5c6401d180b45e992f5cb737.doc

Comment on Docket Item # 21, Public Hearing of June 13, 2009

## What's Wrong With Local Elections In May?

- Extra cost to the taxpayer to run this election (and related March Council primaries if conducted in future)
- Incumbent Council members should be studying budget options in Feb/Mar/Apr -- not campaigning
- Very few people vote and this impacts turnout in June as well
- Being out of step with election cycles of most of the rest of the State makes for conflicting schedules with state agencies/state political parties
- Hard to explain the need to election weary citizens – some May voters thought they were voting for Governor
- Too close to the June primaries which can't be moved
  - Compromises training for June election officials
  - If May recount required, June primary hard to conduct
  - City candidates have a hard time raising money and being heard whenever June primary race(s) are contested
- A better option exists -- November of Presidential Year + 3
  - Campaigning and turnout for State Senate/State Delegate/Clerk of the Court races is seldom very great but this election must be held
  - Getting there will be awkward because the election in November 2012 will also include races for Congressman, one Senator and the President
  - However, a three year term election for Council in 2012 (till Presidential Year + 3 i.e., 2015) will set up that year to be the perfect time to elect members to the first four year terms
  - This timing gives several years to debate the exact nature of the other aspects of the necessary Charter Change

**Pass The “Move To November” Ordinance Now!**

John Howard Eisenhour  
630 South Pitt Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

21  
6-13-09



**Judy Miller**  
<RltrMiller@aol.com>

06/11/2009 02:37 PM

Please respond to  
Judy Miller  
<RltrMiller@aol.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Council hearing #21: Election change



**Time:** [Thu Jun 11, 2009 14:37:30] **IP Address:** [205.188.116.77]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Judy

**Last Name:** Miller

**Street Address:** 507 N. View Terrace

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-548-5168

**Email Address:** RltrMiller@aol.com

**Subject:** Council hearing #21: Election change

An electorate who does not take advantage of the right to vote in May may have the following rationale: inconvenience, no care of city matters, or knowledge enough to vote. These individuals may exhibit the same values in an election occurring just four months later.

Is it the preference to give an ill-equipped electorate a chance to guess for a great name, a fanciful one, a similar/familiar name of anyone, or should preference be given to those who search for a meaningful candidate and who take responsibility to vote regardless of 'inconvenience.' The latter will vote in May, the former will not.

As candidates must be knowledgeable of the

**Comments:** the office, so also should voters be knowledgeable of the candidate.

Those who call for keeping the election in May take umbrage as snobbish elitism is given their mantra. Instead their mantra is one of



requesting educated voters to step up to the plate, and exercise their responsibility; for we care for what the City will become, what it has been, and what it will be.

If higher voter turnout is requested, we can do what other countries have done - given a monetary fine for not voting, incarceration, or whatever. Here in America it is possible to exercise our free will, and it is possible to vote - for those who are willing to participate. Inconvenience is not an excuse for not voting,

21  
6-13-09



**Andrew Campanella**  
<andrew@ccgstrategies.com>

06/11/2009 01:04 PM

Please respond to  
Andrew Campanella  
<andrew@ccgstrategies.com>

To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: Elections

**Time: [Thu Jun 11, 2009 13:04:06] IP Address: [208.118.172.158]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Andrew  
**Last Name:** Campanella  
**Street Address:** 1201 Braddock Place 505  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 202-276-1303  
**Email Address:** andrew@ccgstrategies.com  
**Subject:** Elections

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to

express my opposition to changing Alexandria's citywide elections from May to November.

This effort, which will fundamentally change the way

Alexandria elects its leadership, will not increase voter participation. To the contrary, it will diminish the amount of time and energy that is spent focusing on Alexandria-specific issues--lumping our city elections at the bottom of a long list of offices for which voters must select candidates.

Further, to rush a decision on moving elections--without a full and thorough discussion with the voting public--is a serious and suspect mistake. At the very least, Council should vote against this resolution, or vote to table it until further public comment can be considered by the newly-elected council.

If Council's attempt is to increase citizen participation, there are many ways to accomplish this goal without fundamentally altering our election laws.

One suggestion is to ensure

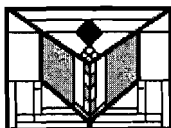
**Comments:** that government and elected officials continually reach out and seek the opinion of constituents. An engaged electorate is an electorate that votes. Instead of shifting election dates, council should appoint a special commission on civic involvement. This commission should determine the most effective way of engaging the electorate and inspiring the citizenry of Alexandria to increase their involvement in local affairs, including but not limited to voter registration, town hall meetings, citywide customer service, citizen outreach, and accessibility to service on boards and commissions.

Another option would be to convert one version of the city newsletter to a printed sample ballot, mailed to each resident. This cost-neutral move could increase turnout by up to 10 percentage points for the May elections.

I look forward to speaking on Saturday about this issue, and again, I respectfully encourage you to vote against the effort to move our citywide elections.

Sincerely,  
Andrew R. Campanella

21  
6-13-09



**Bernard Caton/Alex**  
06/11/2009 01:03 PM

To jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov,  
michele.evans@alexandriava.gov, Jackie Henderson/Alex@Alex  
cc  
bcc

Subject Fw: Proposed Ordinance to Move City Council and School Board  
Elections from May to November, scheduled for Public Hearing on  
Saturday, June 13, 2009

fyi

Bernard Caton  
Legislative Director  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street, Room 3400  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-746-3963  
bernard.caton@alexandriava.gov

**PLEASE NOTE MY NEW PHONE NUMBER**

----- Forwarded by Bernard Caton/Alex on 06/11/2009 01:03 PM -----



**"Hobson, Richard Rathborne"**  
<RHobson@mcguirewoods.com>  
>  
Sent by: "Sapra, Govind R."  
<gsapra@mcguirewoods.com>

06/11/2009 12:47 PM

To <william.euille@alexandriava.gov>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>,  
<timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>,  
<justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc <jbdavies@erols.com>, <Robert1522@aol.com>,  
<ChrCam@Tartanproperties.com>,  
<Lynnwood.Campbell@OTS.Treas.gov>, <billclev@comcast.net>,  
<HenleyAssociates@verizon.net>, <AnnaLeider@aol.com>,  
<realtor@joycewoodson.net>, <Bernard.Caton@alexandriava.gov>

Subject Re: Proposed Ordinance to Move City Council and School Board  
Elections from May to November, scheduled for Public Hearing on  
Saturday, June 13, 2009

**RICHARD R.G. HOBSON**  
**99 N. QUAKER LANE**  
**ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304**

June 10, 2009

**Via E-mail**

Mayor William Euille and Members of  
the Alexandria City Council  
301 King St  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Proposed Ordinance to Move City Council and School  
Board Elections from May to November,  
Scheduled for Public Hearing on Saturday, June 13, 2009.

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the Alexandria City Council:

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the Council's public hearing this Saturday, June 13, 2009, on the proposal referenced above which would move future City Council and School Board elections from May to November. This proposal is limited to that movement of the month of the election and does not propose other changes, such as an increase in the term of Council or staggered elections for Council members.

I will be in Williamsburg on Saturday for the Democratic State Central Committee when we will accept the challenge and opportunity of the November, 2009 election to elect state wide Democratic candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General as well as the majority of members of the House of Delegates. Because of this conflict, I want to get this letter to you to confirm my opposition to this proposed movement of the election date.

You may recall that I was a member of the nine-person Election Process Review Committee which was appointed to consider the Council and School Board elections process in the City. Our reasons for opposing this change were summed up in a report to you dated June 21, 2007. In order to refresh your recollection of that report, I have attached as Exhibit A hereto the portion on page 4 of the report dealing with the proposed date change from May to November. Please note that the vote in opposition to that change was 7 to 2 and that the vote did not break down along political party lines.

I continue to oppose the movement from May to December although such movement would in my judgment probably increase the chances of electing Democrats. I do not think our party needs that added advantage and that the general civic welfare is enhanced when the election is focused on local issues only rather than the combination of local with state or national issues. I believe that the standing of the Democratic Party as the majority party is enhanced when the general civil welfare is enhanced.


I have called other members of the Election Process Committee to urge them to attend the public hearing on June 13. Lynwood Campbell has confirmed that he will attend.

I also want to take this opportunity as the term of this Council comes to a close to thank each of you for your dedicated service to the City and its citizens.

Respectfully,

Richard R.G. Hobson

Richard R. G. Hobson

  
McGuireWoods LLP  
1750 Tysons Boulevard  
Suite 1800  
McLean, VA 22102-4215  
703.712.5437 (Direct Line)  
703.712.5050 (Direct FAX)  
rhobson@mcguirewoods.com

*This e-mail may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please*

*advise by return e-mail and delete immediately without reading or forwarding to others.*  signature.gif



Active\_9360362\_1\_Excerpts from Election Process Review Committee dated June 21, 2007.DOC

**Excerpts from Election Process Review Committee Report**  
**Dated June 21, 2007**

*Moving elections to November.* The Committee<sup>1</sup> recommends that the City continue to hold Council and School Board elections in May. Seven Committee members (Hobson, Davies, Calhoun, Campagna, Campbell, Cleveland, Henley, and Woodson) voted to retain May elections. Two (Calhoun and Leider) prefer having the Mayor and Council elected for a 4-year term in November, in the year before each presidential election year (this is the odd-numbered year in which all General Assembly members are elected; it is also the year when many Virginia counties hold their elections for Boards of Supervisors).

Several years ago, the General Assembly authorized cities and towns, which have traditionally held elections in May, to move them to November, when most national, state and county elections are held in Virginia. Since then, some City residents have suggested that turnout for City Council and School Board will be increased if these elections are held in November, when voter turnout is higher (turnout for the last 3 Council and School Board elections has ranged from 20 to 27 percent, while that for November elections is usually 40 to 50 percent, except for presidential elections, when it increases to 75 to 80 percent).

The Committee considered the value of increased turnout, but heard from some residents the concerns that (1) the consideration of local issues would suffer when joined at the November election with federal and state candidates and issues, and (2) the increased turnout would be made up primarily of voters who were uninformed about local issues. Based on this and other concerns that were expressed (such as the difficulty local candidates would have in attracting campaign contributions and volunteers in the fall), the majority of the Committee agreed that elections should not be moved to November.

19360362.1

---

<sup>1</sup> In this report, if a statement is made that “the Committee” supported a given issue, this means that a majority of the Committee was in support; it does not necessarily mean that the vote was unanimous



**Bob Soltys**  
<bobsoltys@comcast.net>

06/11/2009 10:05 AM

Please respond to  
Bob Soltys  
<bobsoltys@comcast.net>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Moving City Elections to Nov general Election

21  
6-13-09

**Time:** [Thu Jun 11, 2009 10:05:19] **IP Address:** [76.21.168.91]

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Bob  
**Last Name:** Soltys  
**Street Address:** 1409 Bishop Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 7033709859  
**Email Address:** bobsoltys@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Moving City Elections to Nov general Election  
I am opposed to this move. City elections in May mean that CofA residents  
can focus exclusively on our local candidates and their qualifications  
**Comments:** & not get subjected to playing second fiddle to (or riding on the coat  
tails of) the candidates running for state & federal office.



**Bob Soltys**  
<bobsoltys@comcast.net>

06/11/2009 10:05 AM

Please respond to  
Bob Soltys  
<bobsoltys@comcast.net>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Moving City Elections to Nov general Election

21  
6-13-09

**Time: [Thu Jun 11, 2009 10:05:19] IP Address: [76.21.168.91]**

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Bob  
**Last Name:** Soltys  
**Street Address:** 1409 Bishop Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 7033709859  
**Email Address:** bobsoltys@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Moving City Elections to Nov general Election  
I am opposed to this move. City elections in May mean that CofA residents  
can focus exclusively on our local candidates and their qualifications  
**Comments:** & not get subjected to playing second fiddle to (or riding on the coat  
tails of) the candidates running for state & federal office.





Chris Adams  
<jchristianadams@comcast.net>

06/11/2009 09:58 AM

Please respond to  
Chris Adams  
<jchristianadams@comcast.net>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Do NOT move election date

21  
-----  
6-13-09

**Time:** [Thu Jun 11, 2009 09:58:15] **IP Address:** [68.84.3.85]

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Chris  
**Last Name:** Adams  
**Street Address:** 11 W. Glendale Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** va  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** jchristianadams@comcast.net

**Subject:** Do NOT move election date

I am very much against you moving the election date. Doing so allows City government to be conducted anonymously. The May elections are one of the few times people pay attention about city issues. You might not think so because you all live city government all the time. But most people simply don't care about what you all do, and those that do, care part time. May elections bring city issues to the forefront. Moving the election to November is a cheap political game designed to help those who just lost an election, like Justin Wilson. He lost in part because people didn't like the gamesmanship that went into this particular issue. I split my ticket and voted for people like Del Pepper because she supported May elections and against Justin Wilson because he wanted the city government issues to be more anonymous by moving the election to November.

Also, moving the election to November will hurt racial minorities. It will be harder for racial minorities to be elected because lower turnout elections allow

**Comments:**

racial minorities to win. No black candidate has ever won a citywide election head to head against a white candidate. Moving the election to November will hurt racial minorities.

REDMON, PEYTON & BRASWELL, L.L.P.

510 KING STREET, SUITE 301  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

TELEPHONE (703) 684-2000  
FACSIMILE (703) 684-5109

June 12, 2009

Honorable Mayor William Eulle and  
Members of the Alexandria City Council  
320 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Re: Change in Council Election Date

Dear Mayor Eulle and Members of City Council:

I regret that I cannot be present at the public hearing this Saturday. I write to you as a former member of the City Council and as a member of the Council-established Election Process Review Commission. You have received an e-mail from the Chair of that Commission, Richard Hobson, expressing opposition to any change and an excerpt from the Commission's Report on this issue. I agree totally with Mr. Hobson's comments and would add the following.

First, I do not see the need for the change. Although most Virginia cities that have elected a change to the November election cycle have done so to save money by eliminating an election, the motivating force here from certain members of the Council is the low voter turnout. This is said to be due to the fact Alexandria voters "are not used to Spring elections." The media and certain civic groups routinely deplore low voter participation. However, it is not obvious that pumping up the numbers leads to better government if the additional number is made up of voters who not concerned with the governing of the City but are more focused on national or state issues. Further, I am not persuaded that a low turnout is due to the timing of the election. Alexandria is a relatively well-governed City and for many people there is nothing to motivate (read, make them upset or angry) them enough to vote. A further factor, noted by several speakers at the Commission's public hearing, is the lack of electoral competition. As one speaker put it, why bother to vote if you know that the Democratic caucus often decides the election. As the recent election has shown, this is not always the case; however, moving elections to the Fall is bound to make such competition more difficult.

Second, there is no real public support for this change. At the public hearing held by the Commission, there was little support for changing the date, largely for the reasons summarized in the Commission's Report. What little support the idea had was usually coupled with support for other changes in the election of the Mayor and Council. As Mr. Hobson's e-mail notes, the Commission voted **down this change by a vote of 7-2**. I am shown as, in effect, voting twice

21  
6-13-09

Honorable Mayor William Eulle and  
Members of the Alexandria City Council  
June 12, 2009  
Page 2

since I do not have a problem with a Fall election, provided certain other changes are made such as keeping the elections out of the Federal cycle, some form of a district system, etc.

Third, I question the timing. This subject received very little attention in the recent Council election, and this Council has no mandate to consider it. Since, it cannot take effect until 2012 in any event, a respect for the decisions of the voters would suggest that it be left to the new Council for consideration. At the same time, I would hope that other changes, which require Charter amendments, could be considered. In this connection, the argument that Charter changes are too difficult is, in my opinion, a false issue. Most larger Virginia cities have made changes in the structure or size of their City Council through a Charter change. In my experience, if such changes have the support of the legislative delegation, they will easily pass the General Assembly.

No further action should be taken on this Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert L. Calhoun

21  
6-13-09



**Linda Holland**  
<lholland33@comcast.net>

06/12/2009 05:29 PM

Please respond to  
Linda Holland  
<lholland33@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: May elections



**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 17:29:09] IP Address: [98.218.80.251]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Linda  
**Last Name:** Holland  
**Street Address:** 206 Commonwealth Avenue  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703 8363974  
**Email Address:** lholland33@comcast.net  
**Subject:** May elections

I will be unable to attend the public hearing tomorrow, Saturday, June 13, 2009. I wish to express my objection to changing the City Council and School Board elections from May to November. Our elections have never happened in a vacuum. Every registered voter is aware of when the elections will be held. Now, with the technology available to the candidates, numerous methods of informing the voter are available. Absentee ballots and extended hours at the Elections Board are available for anyone unable to get to the polls. The voters this past May spoke and elected new members to the City Council and School Board. These voters exercised their rights a citizen of Alexandria, the state of Virginia and an American. The City Council and School Board issues are local and have a direct impact on every registered voter and resident in

**Comments:** the City. Having separate elections creates the opportunity for each City Council and School Board candidate to be heard in detail by the voter.

I sincerely request that you NOT change the voting date for our City Council and School Board elections. I would hope that you would defer any decision so that new members of council would be able to participate in the discussion after they are sworn into office in July.

It seems to me a bipartisan committee looked into this issue just a couple of years ago and their finding was that there was no reason to change the elections because they did not think that doing so would bring more voters to the polls. Please keep our City elections separate from the National and State elections.

Thank you.

Linda Holland

21  
6-13-09



Cathy Deeds  
<cadeeds@comcast.net>

06/12/2009 06:17 PM

Please respond to  
Cathy Deeds  
<cadeeds@comcast.net>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: The city council election proposed date change

**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 18:17:39] **IP Address:** [66.208.16.19]

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council

**First Name:** Cathy

**Last Name:** Deeds

**Street Address:** 4688 Lawton Way

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22311

**Phone:** 703-9311512

**Email Address:** cadeeds@comcast.net

**Subject:** The city council election proposed date change

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed idea of moving the Alexandria city council and other local elections to the fall. And, I think the newly elected City Council should take up the matter if it chooses.

Having local elections at a different date/time than national election helps keep the focus on local issues and encourages more local participation, although we wish it were higher! As one who has been involved as a local (and national) volunteer for years, I understand this.

**Comments:**

When people vote in Nov. elections they tend to focus on national and statewide issues. I believe there is a benefit to keeping local elections in May or another time than the Nov national/state elections so we can better promote and highlight issues that Alexandria residents care about.

Thank you for considering my view.

Cathy Deeds  
Alexandria, VA



**Harriett McCune**  
<Harriett.mccune@verizon.net>

06/12/2009 06:38 PM

Please respond to  
Harriett McCune  
<Harriett.mccune@verizon.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Proposal to move City Council Elections

21  
-----  
6-13-09



**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 18:38:50] IP Address: [138.88.121.123]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Harriett

**Last Name:** McCune

**Street Address:** 19 Fort Williams Parkway

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:** 703-370-1652

**Email Address:** Harriett.mccune@verizon.net

**Subject:** Proposal to move City Council Elections  
Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I urge you to support the

June 21, 2007, recommendation of the bipartisan Committee appointed by the  
mayor that the current process for City elections should not be changed,

i.e. that the local elections should continue to be held in May. The

committee included both Democrats and Republicans and also former members  
of City Council, the Virginia Senate and the Virginia House of Delegates.

The chairman of the committee was Dick Hobson, who supports keeping the May  
elections.

May elections focal on local issues. May elections occur

immediately following adoption of the city budget when voters are focused

**Comments:** on local issues. Seven of the nine committee members voted to retain May  
elections.

In addition, it appears unseemly, to say the least, for a

lame duck council, with less than one month to serve, to make such an



important decision affecting citizens, who, in some cases, did not wish all of the current members to continue to be on the council.

Please vote to

keep the elections in May. Doing so will better serve the citizens of Alexandria.

Sincerely,

Harriett McCune

21  
6-13-09



Sean Kumar  
<seankumar@yahoo.com>

06/12/2009 06:55 PM

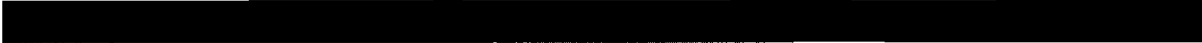
Please respond to  
Sean Kumar  
<seankumar@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Support for Docket Item 21



Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 18:55:06] IP Address: [63.117.139.2]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Sean  
**Last Name:** Kumar  
**Street Address:** 510 E. Windsor Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7032003041  
**Email Address:** seankumar@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Support for Docket Item 21

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,  
I am writing to you to express my very strong support for moving the Mayoral and Council elections to November. Many of you know that I am a lifelong resident of Alexandria and that I am active with many groups, campaigns, boards and commissions. Despite my involvement I rarely comment on issues that come before the Council. I do so now because this issue is of great importance to me.

I have volunteered as a voter protection attorney in Virginia since 2004. As someone who has worked hard to ensure that people who want to vote can, I think that it is equally important to make it easier for people to vote or to make them want to vote in the first place. November elections will increase turnout and ensure that more voices are heard in our representative democracy. In the near future I think the Council should also take the step to stagger terms for Council members such that there is overlap to provide continuity. In addition I urge you to lengthen terms to

**Comments:**

four years and set the elections in odd-numbered years so that state and local issues will be the only ones considered on the ballot when Council members are up for election.

In Virginia we will always have a general election in November each year and there are usually primaries too.

Democracy is a great privilege but we must face the reality of low voter turnout in this country, particularly in the last Council election.

Government, if it is to be inclusive, must play its part in accommodating voters and making it easier to vote. There is no reason to require voters to come out in May for an extra election that could be set in November with state elections. This change would promote efficiency and democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sean Kumar

21  
6-13-09



**Jeff Burtka**  
<jburtka@gmail.com>

06/12/2009 06:56 PM

Please respond to  
Jeff Burtka <jburtka@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Docket Item 21



**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 18:56:27] IP Address: [68.33.63.248]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Jeff

**Last Name:** Burtka

**Street Address:** 46 Ancell St.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22305

**Phone:**

**Email Address:** jburtka@gmail.com

**Subject:** Docket Item 21

Dear Council Members:

Please vote to move the City Council and Mayoral

elections from May to November. These elections are important to our

**Comments:** community and should involve the votes of as many citizens as possible. If  
the City elections coincide with the state and federal elections, voter  
turnout will increase. Thank you.

21  
6-13-09



**Colby Clugston**  
<cgclugston@yahoo.com>

06/12/2009 07:20 PM

Please respond to  
Colby Clugston  
<cgclugston@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Elections - Docket Item 21

**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 19:20:37] **IP Address:** [76.21.193.171]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Colby

**Last Name:** Clugston

**Street Address:** 4763 W. Braddock Rd. Apt. 40

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22311

**Phone:**

**Email Address:** cgclugston@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Elections - Docket Item 21

I was made aware of Docket Item 21 which will be discussed before the City Council on the morning of June 13th. I would like to express my support of moving the Council and Mayoral elections from May to November.

The move

would ensure a larger voter turnout and encourage Alexandria voters to

**Comments:** familiarize themselves more with the members of the Council.

Also, this

will cut in half the needs for volunteers to serve as election officials, a

task I am sure is difficult enough for the November election but even

harder for a second day altogether.

21  
6-13-09



"Amy O'Connor"  
<amyconnor@rocketmail.com>

06/12/2009 08:23 PM

Please respond to  
"Amy O'Connor"  
<amyconnor@rocketmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Elections



Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 20:23:17] IP Address: [72.221.109.139]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Amy  
**Last Name:** O'Connor  
**Street Address:** 511A East Windsor Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 571-643-5179  
**Email Address:** amyconnor@rocketmail.com  
**Subject:** Elections  
I support moving town elections to November from the current May  
**Comments:** schedule.  
Amy O'Connor

21  
6-13-09



**Joan Lamb**  
<mumsy4709@aol.com>

06/12/2009 09:14 PM

Please respond to  
Joan Lamb  
<mumsy4709@aol.com>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Election Date Change



**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 21:14:37] IP Address: [64.12.116.203]**

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
**First Name:** Joan  
**Last Name:** Lamb  
**Street Address:** 4709 Newcomb Place  
Alexandria, Va  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703 370 6188  
**Email Address:** mumsy4709@aol.com  
**Subject:** Election Date Change

**Comments:** I am not in favor of changing the election date. It should remain as it is so that Alexandrians can focus on whom the best candidates are to be on City Council. If you move it to November, it will get lost in the shuffle and hoopla surrounding federal elections. Alexandria deserves to pay more attention to whom it selects to be City Council Members--we want to keep our lovely city running as smoothly as possible.

21  
6-13-09



**Helene Kumar**  
<hskumar208@yahoo.com>

06/12/2009 09:19 PM

Please respond to  
Helene Kumar  
<hskumar208@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Elections

**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 21:19:11] IP Address: [68.48.135.33]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Helene  
**Last Name:** Kumar  
**Street Address:** 208 E Oxford Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7038366855  
**Email Address:** hskumar208@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Elections

Hi,  
I want to express my desire for the City Council and Mayor elections  
to be conducted in November, versus May. It is difficult enough to get  
**Comments:** citizens to get out and vote in November. The campaign efforts would be  
combined and not wasted. Please do all possible to make this happen!  
Thank you. Helene S. Kumar



21  
6-13-09



**Heidi Ford**  
<ha.ford123@yahoo.com>

06/12/2009 09:24 PM

Please respond to  
Heidi Ford  
<ha.ford123@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Local Elections



**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 21:24:43] **IP Address:** [71.191.230.234]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Heidi

**Last Name:** Ford

**Street Address:** 1022 Oronoco Street

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 703-518-0611

**Email Address:** ha.ford123@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Local Elections

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

I will be unable to

attend tomorrow's city council hearing and wanted to register my opposition to changing the date of local elections from May to November at this time.

I think that holding the elections in May does allow people to focus on the local candidates and issues. I attended several of the debates and noticed many others there as well (and suspect even more people might have attended if there had been more debates and they were better advertised).

**Comments:**

Against the backdrop of November state and national elections, the local aspect would be lost. Finally, I must say that it would be highly inappropriate for the outgoing City Council to consider a change of this magnitude less than a month before the new Council is seated. To do so would unnecessarily polarize and politicize the decision.

Regards.

Heidi Ford

21  
6-13-09



**Elizabeth Klein**  
<lizjohnsonklein@gmail.com>

06/12/2009 10:23 PM

Please respond to  
Elizabeth Klein  
<lizjohnsonklein@gmail.com>

To [william.euille@alexandriava.gov](mailto:william.euille@alexandriava.gov),  
[timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov](mailto:timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov), [councilmangaines@aol.com](mailto:councilmangaines@aol.com),  
[council@krupicka.com](mailto:council@krupicka.com), [delpepper@aol.com](mailto:delpepper@aol.com),

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Elections

**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 22:23:10] IP Address: [68.83.222.107]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Elizabeth

**Last Name:** Klein

**Street Address:** 238 Burgess Ave.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22305

**Phone:** 703 535-5423

**Email Address:** [lizjohnsonklein@gmail.com](mailto:lizjohnsonklein@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Elections

I am a resident of Alexandria and strongly support moving the city council

and mayoral elections to November to coincide with  
statewide and/or

**Comments:**

national elections. We should be doing everything we can to increase voter  
turnout, not discourage it.

21  
6-13-09



**Benjamin Klein**  
<benjamin.e.klein@gmail.com>

06/12/2009 11:46 PM

Please respond to  
Benjamin Klein  
<benjamin.e.klein@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Elections



**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 23:46:25] IP Address: [68.83.222.107]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Benjamin  
**Last Name:** Klein  
**Street Address:** 238 Burgess Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 703 535-5423  
**Email Address:** benjamin.e.klein@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Elections

I am writing to encourage you to support moving the City Council elections to November.

I understand that some may see this as a controversial issue. But it shouldn't be. It is impossible to deny that the turnout for our City elections has been low compared to other elections that are held in November.

I know that some will come before the Council and make this a political argument, but regardless of one's party affiliation, we should all be ashamed by the low turnout in the most recent City election.

**Comments:** Others will argue that this issue is best left for the new Council to debate. I disagree. As part of this initiative, Council terms will be lengthened by nearly six months – at

least until elections are eventually staggered. People will cry foul if

the next

Council votes to extend their term. Besides, we shouldn't have

to wait months to have this debate.

It's time for common sense to

prevail.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Klein  
238 Burgess Ave.  
Alexandria,

VA 22305

21  
6-13-09



**Erik Reed**  
<erikreedst2@yahoo.com>

06/13/2009 02:30 AM

Please respond to  
Erik Reed  
<erikreedst2@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Support for Docket Item 21

**Time: [Sat Jun 13, 2009 02:30:16] IP Address: [68.83.213.37]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Erik  
**Last Name:** Reed  
**Street Address:** 510 E. Windsor Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7572876440  
**Email Address:** erikreedst2@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Support for Docket Item 21  
I would like to voice my support for moving the Mayoral and Council elections from May to November. I am a new resident in Alexandria but the  
**Comments:** May elections seem inconvenient and illogical to me. I support the change to move the elections to November as I believe it would increase voter participation and result in better government.

21  
6-13-09



**Boyd Walker**  
<boydwalker@hotmail.com>

06/12/2009 04:26 PM

Please respond to  
Boyd Walker  
<boydwalker@hotmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: November Elections



**Time:** [Fri Jun 12, 2009 16:26:13] **IP Address:** [138.88.253.128]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Boyd  
**Last Name:** Walker  
**Street Address:** 220 E. Bellefonte Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-732-7269  
**Email Address:** boydwalker@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** November Elections

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I would like to express my support for the moving of city council elections to November. I think this could easily double the participation in our local elections with no other changes. I think all citizens and elected officials would like residents of Alexandria to be more knowledgeable about local issues, and by offering a way that will encourage more people to participate by the most simple act of democracy, voting, we will take a step in the right direction. I think by not linking it to any other changes it should get more support for the clarity and simplicity of the proposal. The first November election for City Council will be at the same time as the Presidential Election but at three year intervals it will be another 12 years, or four elections before it is again at the same time as a presidential election. Lets move forward with this proposal.

Indeed other changes would mean moving backward. A

**Comments:**

Ward or district system, although seemingly guaranteeing distribution of council members from across the city, could also serve to parochialize the council, and attract council members who are more interested in their ward than the good of the whole city. I don't think anyone would like to return to the times of Marshall Beverly, the last ward system mayor. Also making no change preserves the change that was made to move the elections to May in 1973, a time of racial divide in the city of Alexandria. Perhaps the move to May was actually a way to secure that council seats would only be elected by insider activists and it serves to disenfranchise minority groups. We should work to enfranchise more citizens of Alexandria, not discourage citizens from voting. We should also not be afraid of the uninformed voter and trust the more people vote the more they will inform themselves. It is time to move forward.

Lastly, in order to truly move forward and to enact a reform that this City Council has the authority to do, we must look to increase the compensation of city council members, so that in the future people from all parts of our community will consider running for city council, can afford to give up their day jobs, if not full time, than part time, and do not have to be independently wealthy to serve on city council. Only by creating "a living wage" for city council members and Mayor will we truly enfranchise not only more citizens to vote, but more citizens to serve. It will be important that the pay and benefits are equal to the requirements of the job, which for council members is at least half the medium income, and for the mayor, equal to the medium income so that he or she can afford to serve full time as our Mayor does now, and also so they can afford to the the important job of Mayor with out the conflict of another job. As this great city grows and becomes even more wonderfully diverse, it is important that we do now what we can to attract diverse and dynamic candidates to the next city council race in November of 2012.

It is time we move forward together.

Boyd



Walker

21  
6-13-09



Stephen Dreikorn  
<stephen\_e\_d@yahoo.com>  
06/12/2009 04:25 PM

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject 6/13 City Council Hearing: May or November Elections statement

Hi Jackie,

Pasted below are my comments for the hearing tomorrow. I am speaker number 18. I will arrive around 9:30am. Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Thanks,

Stephen Dreikorn  
231-750-4110

## **On Moving Local Elections from May to November:**

Dear: Mayor Euille, and Members of the Council,

I am concerned and wary about the idea of switching our city elections from May to November.

Those who typically support moving elections normally do so in support of an admirable goal: increasing voter turnout. Unfortunately in our case, it seems in part that moving the Alexandria city elections from May to November is being driven by a small minority's selfish political agenda.

While we all agree there is a need to increase voter turnout, the fact is, however, that changing the election from May to November is not a solid means to the end. If we increase turnout numbers through moving a date, we will also gain more voters who are unfamiliar with the candidates, policies and issues that affect Alexandria. If we encourage apathetic voters to vote for city council simply because they are on the same ballot as President or Governor, is our great city really benefiting? I say no.

As many of us know, Alexandria is a very transient city. Where I live in the West End, we are thriving with young professionals, immigrants, students, interns, just-married couples, recently divorced or widowed middle-aged folks trying to start over, and people moving to the area from out of state, all of whom continually cycle through my apartment complex for one, two, or even three years. These people will register to vote and do so for the President, because he manages the whole country, or the Governor because he or she manages the entire state, or even for Congress and U.S. Senate because they have broader districts and constituencies. Even though these people plan to move, odds are, those for

whom they vote in November will still have the chance to represent them, and shape policy that affects them. These are the people-who-live-in-Alexandria. They have no desire to engage local politics, elections, community organizations, budget, taxes, schools, etc.

It is important to note that people-who-live-in-Alexandria are different from *Alexandrians*. *Alexandrians* are actively engaged in the issues most important to our great city. They care about the school system and may have children in it; they have decided, at a minimum, to make Alexandria their home for the mid to long term; and they want what is best for Alexandria because they plan to have their future here. For *Alexandrians*, Alexandria is not a temporary residence; for *Alexandrians*, Alexandria is home.

Because they view Alexandria as home, Alexandrians vote in local elections, while the people-who-live-in-Alexandria do not, because they know their stay will be for a short time period. So the question is: should people who live in Alexandria for a short time period, who have no intention of staying or being actively involved in our community really alter the course of city politics? Please realize that these voters will be voting for a party, not a candidate based on his or her policy initiatives. These one-party voters won't bother with finding out the valuable stances and issues behind the candidates. Should our city's future be dictated by people who vote for candidates based solely on party affiliation without regard to what is important to our city, or even worse vote with any random uninformed method?

Granted, more people will vote in November, but the increase in voters will very likely be less informed. If locally elected officials want better voter involvement then they must find ways to actively engage the constituents. Holding more town hall meetings, open mic forums, tele-townhalls, or more actively campaigning, sending quarterly newsletters or going door-to-door in non-election years, etc. will help reach our goal. It *will* lead to increased voter turnout and it *will* create a more knowledgeable and engaged electorate.

One more reason we should continue the tradition of May elections is that it is important for the legislative body to be connected closely with the electorate. May elections best suit Alexandrians and our form of government. If we switch to November elections, the elective offices will be coupled with any number of other offices that will undoubtedly and understandably garner more media attention and spend a lot more money.

In today's elections it is not uncommon for a State Senate candidate to spend \$750,000 and a state delegate candidate to spend more than \$100,000. With fall elections being monetarily over inflated, it would be difficult for local candidates to raise enough money to raise their name ID, let alone run a solid campaign. Their mailings would be lost in the wash, and their efforts would be in vain. It would feed a situation where people with name ID, usually incumbents, would easily win reelection. At this point the voters would no longer be voting based on policy, rather on name ID, party affiliation, or worse, randomly. The voters would likely become more detached and disengaged. Over time, the inability to

raise funds and campaign effectively would drastically decrease the number of challengers and quality of candidates. Though some people say it will be convenient, adding two more elective offices with upwards of 15 candidates for City Council and six for School Board per district to the fall ballot could potentially create voter fatigue as well as voter disengagement.

Furthermore, in today's political arena, we are quite far removed from our representatives. In our form of federalism, the citizens are supposed to be closely connected with their legislatures. In fact, the most sacred level of federalism is the closest to which the people are, in this case the local level. If we disengage our voters by moving the elections to November, Alexandrians will lose that close and sacred bond with their locally elected officials.

Holding our city elections in May is the logical way to engage Alexandrians, and truly represent the people who are engaged in the community. With May elections, the candidates are more likely to engage the voters with their policy and messaging without being overwhelmed by larger, more media-centric offices. The local candidates would be able to understand their electorate better and separate the Alexandrians who care about their city from the people-who-live-in-Alexandria and do not plan to make our city their home.

Ultimately, we all seek higher voter turnout, but I submit that the few extra voters we would see if we change the date of the election would not equate to better voter engagement, participation and good governance. Keeping the elections in May is crucial to assist the candidates in effectively engaging Alexandrians with their message and provide the voters with the knowledge to elect the Mayor, City Council and school board members they believe will best lead our city and maintain a close electoral bond. For all of these reasons, I urge the City Council to continue holding local elections in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Dreikorn  
2701 Park Center Dr., B1603  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
June 12, 2009



"Jim Rapp"  
<seesaw8@comcast.net>  
06/12/2009 04:21 PM

To <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Comment: Oppose June 13, 2009 Vote On Changing City Election Date

21  
6-13-08

**Dear Alexandria City Council,**

**I am a long-time City of Alexandria resident.**

**On June 13, 2009, it is my understanding there is to be a public hearing and possible vote in respect to moving city elections from the traditional May date to November.**

**Out of common courtesy, and because it is the right thing to do on behalf of the citizens of Alexandria, I oppose your voting on this important measure until the new council, which convenes July 1, 2009, has a chance to review, consider, and then if they wish, vote on the matter.**

**Also, by moving elections to November, city elections will be overwhelmed by the many other state and national offices to be voted upon simultaneously.**

**So again, please DO NOT Change the election Date from May, until the new council has a chance to take the matter up.**

**Thank you very much.**

**Sincerely,**

**James B. Rapp  
City of Alexandria Resident  
Ph. (703) 836-4273**

21  
6-13-09

Geraldine Baldwin  
431 South Columbus Street # 301  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
571-269-7521  
June 12, 2009

City Council Members  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

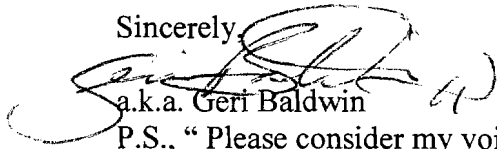
Dear Council Members,  
Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Del Pepper,  
Councilmen Rob Krupicka, Councilmen Ludwig Gaines,  
Councilmen Paul Smedberg, Councilmen Tim Lovain and Councilmen Justin Wilson.,

In regard of the debate of moving the May Election to November for the City Council-Members and School Board to be elected would be like taken the character of our City of Alexandria – historical moment from its own weight of capacity...

The two categorical moment of election should remain separated from a long list that may confuse voters, Our City Leaders voice of election plays a role in our lives and business for one not find the time and effort to vote in either category...

“ A suggestion - May be the City Election Office and the Board could extend the days for absentees voters...And replace the D = Democratic, R = Republican and the I = Independents letters back on the ballot screen for the voters to select...” Our voice as citizens should not have to play guessing game to be heard especially for the first time voters, elderly and seniors. The letters for each Candidate play’s big roll for the voters it helps in making that decision at the poll’s. as to all the cards letters receive in mail from each Candidates...Even at one point at this past election for city council member I my self fore got who was running as an Independent Candidate or as a Republican, without the letters as I of course a Democrat supporter, At the poll’s is where our voice heard, But all the same I believe the May election should remain in May and not be move to the month of November.

Sincerely



a.k.a. Geri Baldwin

P.S., “ Please consider my voice in this matter.”

# JOYCE WOODSON

21  
6-13-09

June 13, 2009

Mayor and City Council Members  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I am writing to express my disappointment that again this council is considering moving our local Alexandria elections to November.

As you know I was a member of the commission you established in 2007 to consider this idea. The commission was bipartisan and included several former elected officials. The commission's opinion: keep the local elections in May. I concurred with the commission's opinion.

Citizens in Alexandria know me to be an avid supporter of democracy through citizen engagement in public policy and public affairs. I do not agree with council members who believe moving the local election to November enhances democracy. In fact, I do not think moving the election has anything to do with democracy. I would like to share my opinions and my questions:

1. Voters are not disenfranchised they are disinterested. Whose fault is that? In part it is the voter's fault for not taking democracy and their right to vote seriously. In part it is the politicians fault for not giving voter's a reason to be excited about an election. In the absence of spirited debate and diversity of thought at all levels in the democratic process, to include running for office and serving in office, some voters may become disinterested.
2. Getting attention will be much more difficult for local issue in the fall when the line-up is top-heavy with higher-level elections. This increased level of attention scarcity will make each candidate's cost to run that much higher.
3. Raising money for local elections will be much more difficult due to competition with higher-level office races. Increasing the cost of an election will adversely impact minority candidates.
4. Why is it okay to have primaries in the spring but not okay to have elections in the spring? Why not have primaries in the fall and the election the following fall if the primary reason to move the election to the fall is to increase voter turnout?

# JOYCE WOODSON

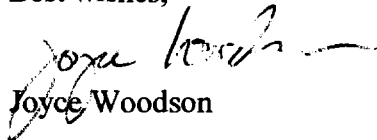
5. What about the school board election? School board elections are at the same time as the city council elections but the total school board vote is not the same as the total city council vote. Why were at least 2000 fewer votes cast for school board members? Voters are enfranchised to vote for everyone on the ballot but they don't. I believe school board attracts less attention and so garners fewer votes. Is it possible the same people who vote for city council in the spring will be the ones voting for city council in the fall? Is it possible the people who vote for city council or school board do so because they are interested in those elections, know the candidates and know the issues?
6. Will school board candidates have a chance of getting their message across in the fall crowded as the ballot will be with other races? We have had a difficult time electing minorities in each contested school board race since we switched from appointed to elected school boards, yet minorities make up over 75 percent of the school population.

Yes, more voters vote in the fall, but it is not because they are only enfranchised to vote in the fall. I believe if candidates give voters a reason to become more engaged and if the effort to get people interested in voting and civic participation is not limited to "elect me" campaigns every three years, we will see more voters turnout no matter when the election is held.

I fear moving the election to the fall will dilute local issue, adversely impact minority and independent candidacies due to increased cost, and ultimately serve to silence dissenting community view points from rising above the din of political committee machines.

Democracy is not supposed to be about one political party gaining advantage over another political party. It's supposed to be about giving people the power to determine their destiny. If greater voter participation is truly what you seek then put out the effort to get and keep the electorate involved everyday – and not just when you are asking for their vote.

Best wishes,



Handwritten signature of Joyce Woodson in black ink, appearing as 'Joyce Woodson' with a flourish at the end.

cc: Attorney General Eric Holder, United States Department of Justice



# GO BACK TO THE FUTURE

21  
6-13-09

The purpose of my remarks are to persuade the city council to reinvigorate democracy in Alexandria not so much by changing the date on which local elections are held, but more by restoring the manner by which council members are elected.

Changing the season from spring to fall in which elections are held is just kicking the can down the road.

Certainly, simply combining our local elections with national ones will--

- A. increase the number of votes cast for both despite running the risk of confusing voters with a plethora of choices, and
- B. will allow the city council members to focus in May on its fiduciary responsibilities instead of electioneering

However, if the city council wants to...

- make its members accountable to the voters; and
- give residents a single council member elected solely to represent the interests and needs of the community in which they live;
- drop the façade that Alexandria is a small village for which At-Large elections are ideal;
- eliminate the legacy left by Jim Crow to keep minorities from being elected to city council
- go back to the future by re-establishing the manner of electing council members by wards as it was done in the time before Jim Crow
- buttress civic associations focused on neighborhood issues
- give fundamental reasons for city residents to vote in local elections because the outcome determines whom among their neighbors will represent their community interests on city council,
- then the council should seek authority to--
  1. change the city charter moving the date for local elections from spring to fall, and
  2. change the manner in which council members are elected by re-establishing wards
  3. require council candidates to live in the ward whose interests they seek to represent on city council, and
  4. tailor ballots so each ward allows voting only for the contenders within that ward; not for every candidate city wide.

RESULT: Neighbors are engaged, voter turn-out increases, democracy is re-invigorated

## Local Elections

The proposal either to move the election to another month will probably increase the number of votes cast, but it won't invigorate our local democracy or establish a compelling reason to vote.

The anemic voter turn out for the last city council election didn't have anything to do with the month, or the number of days allowed to cast a vote, or the issues. It had much to do with the pointlessness of voting in the first place.

Frankly, if residents can't select from among their neighbors someone to their city council person, then why bother voting in a local election, especially since the election outcome is preordained?

Let's face it: the great majority of Alexandria residents align themselves with or are in fact proud members of the Democratic Party. There's nothing wrong with this fact, especially if you are a Democrat running for public office.

However, what it means in practical terms is, if the Democratic Party caucuses anoints you for a city council seat, it's almost certainly yours. The act of voting is just sop to those who still believe in democracy.

Several cycles of this process of having a political party caucus effectively appoint members to city council has spawned apathy, frustration and disinterest.

It also means its pure theater when candidates listen to voter concerns, explain solutions to vexing problems or take stands on anything. The poor community turnout for the recent candidate forums is testimony.

The solution is for the Democratic Party, which controls the city through its party member, who occupy all but two of every elected city office, to change the city charter to enable future city council elections so contenders are elected by wards, not at large.

This will ensure our city council is composed of individuals who really represent their neighborhoods, who know personally its issues and a lot of its residents, who walk their dogs on its streets, who know where the potholes are and where a small park could be located.

Moving the council elections to November will increase the number of votes cast for contenders for city council if for no other reason than more voters show up for these elections.

However, unless the Democratic Party lets residents of Alexandria select neighbors from their communities to represent them on city council, then changing the month within which these elections occur will be all that changes.

13 June 2009

#21

Dave Fromm

Mayor Euille and members of City Council,

Once again there was low voter turnout for the Alexandria City Council elections. And once again there is a call to move the elections from May to November as a means to increase voter turnout.

I agree that something should be done to increase voter turnout, and moving the elections to November will, in some years, increase the turnout substantially.

But we are not just talking about voter turnout. If we were, then the answer is simple. Move the election to coincide with the presidential elections – period. But in fact, that is not what is being proposed by at least one council member. Reasons are being given for using the odd-year elections, implying that there are other factors to be considered.

And the truth is that there are many factors to be considered, but those arguing for this apparently simple change of May-to-November are focusing only on simple changes to our election process in order to make the election cycle math work out. Also, most of their arguments lack any references to actual studies, or draw on results from national elections, or include phrases like “having faith in the voters.”

I found Poul Hertel’s analysis of the importance of information acquisition by the voters to be very interesting, and consistent with the results of a nationwide survey by the PEW Research Center ([people-press.org/reports/pdf/292.pdf](http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/292.pdf)) which indicates that 76% of rare voters and 60% of intermittent voters “Know little about the candidates.” Not surprising, especially when you consider some of the sources of election information in the city:

- According to the city’s adopted mission Strategic Plan, government “engages the entire community as it plans for the future.” Then why was the *fyi Alexandria* newsletter, which was sent to all the city’s residents, mailed after the election. It had a nice article telling us the results of the election, but wouldn’t have done more to “engage the entire community” if it had been sent out before the election and encouraged everyone to vote on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- It is my understanding that in general the candidates don’t send their literature to every household, rather they target their mailings.
- The elections were covered in the local newspapers, but many people don’t read the local papers – plus even if every Gazette Packet was read, they only have a circulation of 15,000.
- All those campaign signs were not much help either. I don’t believe any experienced candidate had the date of the election on their sign. To their credit, most (all?) of the new challengers did.

So if a person didn't get a mailing, or read a local newspaper, or see a new challenger's sign, then there is a good chance they didn't know the election was on May 5<sup>th</sup>, let alone know anything about the candidates, the issues, etc.

This is not to say that the problem is that voters were confused by a May election. It is true that everyone learns that federal and state elections are in November, but "The timing of local government elections varies enormously in the United States." (*The Timing of Elections*, Christopher R. Berry & Jacob E. Gersen). Delaware County, PA, where I grew up, has local elections in the spring, as does the city of Pittsburg. In New York, 533 out of 563 villages in New York hold elections in the spring. In California, 19% of the cities hold their elections in the spring (*Municipal Institutions And Voter Turnout In Local Elections*, Zoltan Hajnal & Paul G. Lewis), including Los Angeles. This was hardly meant to be an exhaustive list. There are over 87,000 local governments (*Encyclopedia of U.S. Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior* by Kenneth F. Warren) in the US. The vast majority of them do not hold November elections (*Transforming Votes into Victories: Turnout, Institutional Context, and Minority Representation in Local Politics*, Zoltan Hajnal & Jessica Trounstine). Alexandria is hardly an oddball.

The problem of low voter turnout has many facets that we have not touched on at all. Studies show that voting districts, the council/city manager form of government, and non-partisan elections tend to reduce voter turnout. The tendency of voters to not get to the end of a long ballot is well documented. Some studies show that the non-voters tend to think the same as those that vote, so that increased turnout rarely affects the results of an election. Other studies confirm that minority representation and access to government goods and services are helped by increasing voter turnout, although interestingly, some minorities are helped more than others. The studies also say that increasing voter turnout does not ensure greater civic engagement, and that the concerns that aligning local elections with state and national elections would draw attention away from local politics and issues are real.

The National Civic League has developed the 8th edition of the Model City Charter, a publication that has profoundly influenced local government structure since NCL printed the first edition in 1900. In the current edition, they state, "Traditionally the Model has advocated separating municipal elections from state and national elections to allow a clear focus on local issues. State election laws and city charters frequently schedule municipal elections in the fall of odd-numbered years or in the spring of the year. However, recent evidence suggests that turnout is higher during state and national elections. Some now advocate moving local elections to coincide with state and national elections to increase participation in local races. *The Committee that developed the Model recognized the trade-off involved with each choice and decided not to express a preference.*" (emphasis mine)

And that's the point! There are trade-offs and potentially unintended consequences, and we have not done our homework, not now nor with the previous election committee. We have not truly identified and brought all the issues to the table, discussed and debated them, and reached a consensus. A hand full of opinion pieces in the local papers, a blog

13 June 2009

or two, even this public hearing, hardly constitute a serious public debate. We deserve better! Charter changes involving the fundamental right to vote should involve significant public participation and discourse. That way, when the request is sent to Richmond, it can be said to truly represent the desire of the electorate.

We are an award-winning city with a AAA bond rating and various programs that are considered as models to be emulated. Given the status of things in the City, the history of our City and the influential people that have lived here over the centuries, I would hope that if we are going to alter the election process and other aspects of how we are governed that we find solutions that are uniquely Alexandrian, that truly serve our needs, and are nationally acknowledged as models for others.

I'd like to close with a quote from Councilman Krupicka's Blog: "And lastly, voters are smart enough, and have the right, to decide for themselves how they vote." If that is so, then why are the seven of you and not the citizens of this city deciding this now?

Sincerely,  
David Fromm  
2307 E Randolph Ave  
703.549.3412  
alsdmf@earthlink.net

21  
6-13-09

**TO THE ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 13, 2009, ITEM 21**

**STATEMENT OF CARLYLE C. ("CONNIE") RING**

**RE: LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MAY**

**I strongly urge that the local elections remain in May. Attached are two letters I have written expressing more fully my views. In summary, my points are as follows:**

- **A public hearing is meaningful if each member of Council has an open mind to receive and consider the views expressed in the public hearing. Otherwise the public hearing is a charade.**
- **It is more appropriate for the newly elected council to decide whether there should be a referendum for an expression of voter preference or whether any change at all should be made.**
- **A decision made now may be irreversible so should not be made in haste.**
- **The objective of every election should be for an informed electorate to choose the best persons to make decision in the public interest with a diversity that reflects the make up of the electorate as a whole.**
- **The committee appointed by this Council to study the issue voted 7 to 2 to continue local elections in May.**
- **Meaningful competition for seats on the Council is the major factor in turnout. To the extent diversity is discouraged and competition thereby reduced, turnout for the local elections will diminish for the lack of meaningful choice.**
- **Representation of minorities has been fostered by May elections from the successful campaign of Ira Robinson as an independent and other elected independents some of whom were government employees, and of Republicans.**
- **Dialogue and consensus building is better achieved in the open and refreshing dialogue from those with different perspectives.**
- **Any decision of this Council will be scrutinized under the Voting Rights Act.**
- **Full public input is better achieved by a referendum at the appropriate time.**

David Sachs  
Editor  
Alexandria Times

Dear Editor:

In the recent May edition of the Times, an informative table of declining voter participation was included. However, I believe it does not tell the whole story of why participation has diminished.

The biggest factor is reduced competition and thus choice for the voter. When there have been meaningful races for Mayor the participation has been greater – and most of those contests were in the 70s and 80s, and also a period in which Independents and Republicans held 3 out of the 7 seats on Council for much of those two decades. The highest vote was in 2003 when there was a three way contest for Mayor namely Euille, Cleveland and Van Fleet. That was a turnout of 20,221. The second largest turnout was in 1988 when I challenged Jim Moran for Mayor -- a turnout of 19,262. The third best turnout was in 1985 when Jim Moran, running as an Independent, challenged Chuck Beatley – a turnout of 19,146. When there was no race for Mayor or a low key race, your figures show the turnout was less.

The figures show that competition and choice for the voter is a factor in reduced turnout and consequently, in moving the local elections to November, the interest and the number of voters marking their ballots for City Council and Mayor at the end of a long ballot may also drop off dramatically.

In addition to the decline of competition, there are two other factors that have played a role in my opinion. The first is the changing demography of Alexandria. It has been my observation that the turnover rate of the Alexandria residents has accelerated. People who live in the City for short periods of time are less

connected to the city's civic activities and less likely to take an interest in local elections.

The last factor is that the increased ease of registering to vote (a good thing) has increased the rolls for national elections but because of the resident turnover rate mentioned above, the interest does not manifest itself for local elections. Thus another cause for reduced percentage participation by registered voters.

Your table showing the history is informative but the conclusions to be drawn from it need added information analysis.

**CARLYLE C. ("CONNIE") RING, JR**  
**Former City Councilman (1979-1988; candidate for Mayor**  
**1988)**



## PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

YEAR	REGISTER VOTERS*	ACTUAL VOTERS*	% *	COMMENT MAYOR RACE
1973	49,000	11,594	24%	#Beatley/?
1976	38,185	15,756	41%	Mann/ ?
1979	43,892	16,925	39%	Beatley/Mann
1982	46,165	17,249	37%	Beatley/Calhoun
1985	52,716	19,146	36%	Beatley/Moran
1988	56,003	19,262	34%	Moran/Ring
1991	56,856	17,073	30%	Moran/Stone
1994	60,304	17,649	29%	Ticer/Bell
1997	64,118	15,104	24%	#
2000	71,946	17,843	25%	#
2003	75,254	20,221	27%	Euille/Cleveland/ Van Fleet
2006	77,740	15,365	20%	#
2009	93,871	14,419	15%	#

\*information from Alexandria Times (May 21-27)  
 #no race or no meaningful competition for Mayor

**My View | Connie Ring****Retribution or Realpolitik?  
Let The Voters Decide**

The proposal to change local elections from May to November may place partisan advantage over the best forum for dialogue on city issues and selection of the best people to serve on Council. It is in my view wrong to make any change now for the following reasons:

A decision by a lame duck Council on June 13 may be perceived as retribution for the electorate selecting three new members of Council on May 5 and as a blow to the benefits of diversity on Council.

The discussion of city concerns in November may well be overwhelmed by the attention given to national and state candidates, greatly diminishing the dialogue so important to maintaining a consensus and sense of community in Alexandria.

Voting in November may encourage factional voting (party line voting) for local offices rather than voting for each candidate on his or her individual merits.

Two Virginians warned against factions (relying upon parties) rather than selecting the best people to represent us. George Washington in his *Farewell Address* wrote:

*"I have intimated to you the danger of parties... [T]he common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it...It serves to distract the Public Councils, and enfeeble the Public Administration. It agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, and foment occasionally...There is an opinion, that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the*

*Government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of Liberty. This within certain limits is probably true....And, there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be, by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched demands uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into flame, lest, instead of warming it should consume."*

James Madison in the *Federalist Papers* wrote:

*"Complaints are everywhere heard...that governments are too unstable, that the public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties, and the measures are too often decided not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority."*

The counsel of Washington and Madison was not only relevant then but applies today. It is not wise for a lame duck Council composed all of one party to impose a rule upon a newly elected Council with diversity of viewpoints what may be an irreversible decision. The haste will be perceived as one for partisan advantage.

The public policy choice is whether the city is better served (i) by individuals elected when the full attention is upon local matters and the individual merits of the candidates, or (ii) in November for national or state elections when the local matters will be suppressed and factional voting may determine the outcome but larger participation may be achieved. It is a valid policy debate but one appropriate for the new Council and, if they consider it appropriate, a referendum which the electorate will decide.

— Carlyle C "Connie" Ring  
Former Councilman (1979-88)  
Former School Board member (1969-78)

Election Date	Mayor's Race	Mayor 1	Mayor 2	Total Voters
6/13/1967	Beatley (D) v Opie (I)	5709	3738	10146
6/9/1970	Beatley (D) v Bendall (I)	6748	5657	14475
5/1/1973	Beatley (D) Unopposed	6013		11595
5/4/1976	Bergheim (D) v Mann (I)	5359	7687	15281
5/1/1979	Beatley (D) v Mann (I)	10272	5808	16925
5/4/1982	Calhoun (R) v Beatley	6864	9901	16765
5/7/1985	Beatley (D) v Moran (I) v	7385	9472	18500
5/10/1988	Ring (R) v Moran (D)	8264	10451	19030
5/9/1991	Stone (R) v Ticer (D)	6664	9913	16594
5/3/1994	Ticer (D) v Bell (R)	10952	4741	16273
5/7/1997	Donley (D) UNopposed	11545		15104
5/2/2000	Donley (D) v Peavey (I) v	10269	6223	17843
5/6/2003	Cleveland (R) v Euille	10427	8234	20221
5/2/2006	Euille (D) Unopposed	12134		15365
5/2/2009	Euille (D) Unopposed	10097		14419

Registered Voters Turnout

35780	28.36%
38898	37.21%
55056	21.06%
38158	40.05%
44050	38.42%
46092	36.37%
52786	35.05%
56003	33.98%
56856	29.19%
55773	29.18%
64118	23.56%
71946	24.80%
76264	26.51%
77740	19.76%
93871	15.36%

21  
6-13-09

Clark Mercer

## MOVING LOCAL ELECTIONS FROM MAY TO NOVEMBER:

### *INCREASES PARTICIPATION, SAVES MONEY, AND IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!*

- **May Elections Aren't Working.** Only 15% of Alexandria voters participated in our May 2009 elections. There has been a steady decline in May elections over the past decades: in 1976 turnout was 41%, in 1985 it was 36%, and in 2006 it was 19%.
- **Citizens Vote in November.** Across the country, local, state and national elections are held in November. In Virginia, half of cities that had local elections in May have moved to November, including Virginia Beach and Charlottesville. In Alexandria, in November 2008 voter turnout was 73%, in 2006 it was 59%, and in 2004 was 81%.
- **Saves Money.** Moving elections from May to November will save the City approximately \$60,000. It's fiscally responsible to move our elections and it will increase participation.
- **Alexandria Residents Are Smart and Can Handle This.** Opponents of moving elections state that those residents that care about Alexandria vote in May, implying those that don't vote must not care about Alexandria and/or are uninformed. 87% of our residents hold a high school degree and we all live just a few minutes from Washington D.C. — we are well educated and understand politics. We can make thoughtful decisions about who to elect; **it's insulting to suggest that 85% of our residents don't care about Alexandria or understand the issues.**
- **Let our Council Concentrate on the Budget, PLEASE!** One of, if not the, top priorities of our Council and Mayor is to pass a responsible and thoughtful budget in late April/early May each year. It is unbelievable that during the budget season we have Council members spending large amounts of their time campaigning and not working on the budget. We need more budget sessions and hearings—not less. We need more input from the citizens on how our tax dollars are spent—not less. Having the budget passed literally days before the May elections is irresponsible and turns valuable attention away from the budget. **The City Council is responsible for a half a billion dollar budget— we need them to concentrate on the budget, and for more citizens to participate and decide who gets elected to handle such an important task- not 15% of voters.**
- **Force Candidates to Reach out to ALL Voters!** Unfortunately, our tradition of low turnout is being sustained by candidate outreach strategies. Due to limited budgets candidates only reach out to the 10,000 – 15,000 voters who are likely to turn out in May. Moving elections to November forces candidates to reach out to the entire 90,000 voter electorate.



**Nell Mercer**  
<nsmercer@gmail.com>

06/10/2009 10:33 AM

Please respond to  
Nell Mercer  
<nsmercer@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: change in schedule of city elections

21  
6-13-09



**Time:** [Wed Jun 10, 2009 10:33:13] **IP Address:** [98.204.138.158]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Nell

**Last Name:** Mercer

**Street Address:** 818 Marshall Lane

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** Virginia

**Zip:** 22302

**Phone:** (703)370-0038

**Email Address:** nsmercer@gmail.com

**Subject:** change in schedule of city elections

**Comments:**

I am contacting you to express my support for changing the current schedule for city elections based on two non-partisan issues. First, during a time of such economic instability, it is fiscally responsible to lessen the cost involved with the city election by eliminating the separate election currenety held in May and consolidating it with the election in November. Second, the offices of mayor and city council are too important to Alexandria to be determined by such an extremely low percentage of the electorate. I appreciate your consideration of my views on this matter.

21  
6-13-09



**Kerry Donley**  
<kdonley@vcbonline.com>

06/10/2009 10:17 AM

Please respond to  
Kerry Donley  
<kdonley@vcbonline.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: November elections

Time: [Wed Jun 10, 2009 10:17:42] IP Address: [151.200.216.2]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Kerry  
**Last Name:** Donley  
**Street Address:** 609 N. Pickett Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 7038233359  
**Email Address:** kdonley@vcbonline.com  
**Subject:** November elections  
**Comments:** Letter to Council attached  
**Attachment:** 42ef75d74b92031cc1be9e739cb01113.doc



42ef75d74b92031cc1be9e739cb01113.doc

*Kerry J. Donley  
609 N. Pickett Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304*

June 10, 2009

The Mayor and Member of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council:

I write today in favor of moving our municipal elections to November and I urge you to support this item which is on your docket for Saturday. Over the years we have seen a consistent decline in voter participation in our local elections, mostly recently a 15% turnout this past May. Ironically, the decisions made by our City Council directly affect our citizenry and yet fewer citizens are engaged in these important elections. Now is the time to make the first of a number of reforms which would help boost turnout and engage our citizenry, and moving local elections to November is the first step.

Moving the elections to November will time elections to coincide with normal voting for other offices, and November elections are habitual for many voters. With turnout much greater in November than in May, more citizens will be aware of local issues and will weigh-in as part of the electoral process. I would argue that with more citizens engaged in the electoral process the better the ultimate result. As a participatory democracy we should always look to increase participation and remove artificial barriers to participation in our governmental process.

If we assume a 50% voter turnout in a gubernatorial year along with a fall-off in participation in local races to 30%, that figure is twice the turnout we experienced last May. This higher turnout represents a significant improvement and will be the result of one simple step, namely changing the election to November.

Additionally, I feel there are a number of other reasons supporting the move to November:

- Virginia counties hold elections on November and turnout is higher and they experience no adverse effects;
- Many other Virginia cities have moved to November elections once the General Assembly gave them the option; and
- May elections were originally put in place to suppress minority participation, and I believe that we as a society have moved far away from



that rationale and should look to promote participation amongst all citizens.

As I mentioned, moving our local elections to November is an important first step and Council should also consider others. I favor lengthening the term of office for City Council to four years (I believe that Alexandria is the only jurisdiction in the Commonwealth with three year terms), and terms of office should be staggered with three seats up for election every two years. Such a move would focus more attention on fewer candidates and ending the cattle call of up to twelve or more candidates seeking office. This series of reforms would make it much easier for candidates to participate in neighborhood forums, and voters could much more easily examine the candidates' respective records and their stands on important issues to our city. Again, the result would be more participation and a more effective electoral process since we will have increased the frequency of our elections along with the timing of the elections.

Coupled with moving the elections to November, these reforms will allow us to engage a larger constituency, encourage candidates to seek office and more effectively conduct campaigns for local office. Increased competition and more attention paid to local elections will ultimately yield an engaged citizenry and a responsive Council.

Now is the time to initiate these reforms, namely on the heels of our last City Council election. Any reforms must be initiated now at the beginning of a new term so we can develop appropriate transition strategies. Accordingly, I urge your prompt action and support for moving to November elections for City Council.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerry J. Donley

21  
6-13-09



Ellen Qualls  
<ellen.qualls@gmail.com>

06/09/2009 05:41 PM

Please respond to  
Ellen Qualls  
<ellen.qualls@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: City Council Elections, May to November



Time: [Tue Jun 09, 2009 17:41:18] IP Address: [143.231.249.138]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ellen  
**Last Name:** Qualls  
**Street Address:** 304 Prince Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703.548.3966  
**Email Address:** ellen.qualls@gmail.com  
**Subject:** City Council Elections, May to November  
Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

I support moving the elections  
for Mayor and City Council to November. I believe we must make voting on  
**Comments:** these local offices more convenient--as a way to engage more citizens in  
all the work you do.  
Thanks.  
Ellen Qualls

21  
6-13-09



**Kelly Thomasson**  
<kelly.thomasson@gmail.com>

06/09/2009 01:58 PM

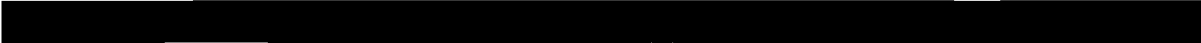
Please respond to  
Kelly Thomasson  
<kelly.thomasson@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Move local elections to November



**Time: [Tue Jun 09, 2009 13:58:28] IP Address: [156.33.92.34]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Kelly  
**Last Name:** Thomasson  
**Street Address:** 3318 Valley Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-835-4916  
**Email Address:** kelly.thomasson@gmail.com

**Subject:** Move local elections to November  
Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor & Council Members,  
I write to urge you to

favorably consider moving the local elections from May to November.

Supporters of keeping Alexandria's local elections in May have  
suggested that the elections attract voters who care about local issues.

However, if these supporters of May elections really cared about local  
issues they would support moving the elections to November so that Council  
can focus on the City's budget. During the critical budget season, which  
affects our city more than any other action, Council members must divert  
their attention to campaigning instead of evaluating Alexandria's budget  
needs. During this period we should be having additional budget sessions  
and hearings rather than having additional campaign rallies.

**Comments:**

Thank you  
for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Best,

Kelly

Thomasson

Statement of Michael E. Hobbs  
for the  
Alexandria City Council  
June 13, 2009

#21 – Changing the Election of the Mayor and City Council from the  
May General Election Cycle to the November General Election Cycle

Thank you, Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, and members of Council. I am Michael Hobbs, residing at 419 Cameron Street.

I have participated in the civic life of my community as Co-Chair of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations; as President of the Old Town Civic Association; as Treasurer of Agenda: Alexandria; as chair of my local political party; as a volunteer and/or contributor in the campaigns of several candidates for public office, of both parties, and the manager of one; and as a voter in every primary and general election—both in May and November—since I became eligible to vote. My opinions about our election process are, I hope, informed by those experiences, but I write today for myself, not for any organization.

The active engagement of our citizens in the governmental and electoral processes of our city is a hallmark of our public life. It is central to what makes ours a great city, a real community, and a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The objective of moving our municipal election from May to November presumably would be to increase the number of people who cast votes for our local offices. That would almost certainly be the superficial result. But the unintended consequences of such a move could do grievous harm to the quality, intensity and importance of real and meaningful public participation in our public life. We might strengthen the appearance of public participation in our elections and government, but in fact do critical damage to the reality of that ideal in Alexandria.

Approximately 15,000 citizens typically vote in our city elections in May; the number is often more if there is a Mayoral election contest. If the election were shifted to November, that number would probably increase significantly, at least in years in which a presidential or gubernatorial election headed the ballot. But would that mean that the quality and importance of citizen participation in Alexandria government has increased proportionately, virtually overnight? Certainly not, and perhaps quite the contrary. It would simply reflect the reality that many more people vote in national and statewide than in local elections, and that having come out to do so, many of those additional voters might vote also for the local offices if they were included on the same ballot.

It is argued that moving the election to November would increase voter turnout—but in fact it is very unlikely that it would increase the number of Alexandria citizens who actually come out to vote in November. Eligible voters who ever turn out for any election (including virtually all of those who ordinarily vote in our local elections) probably vote in Presidential elections already: it is unlikely that any additional voters would be motivated

to turn out in November just by the addition of local offices to the ballot. Indeed, the aggregate number of voters participating in Alexandria elections over the course of a year would almost certainly decline. With the present cycle, we might have, typically, 15,000 voters in May and a modest to a much greater number in November, depending on whether there were a Presidential or Gubernatorial contest on the ballot. With the addition of the City election to the ballot, we might have a very few more voters than would otherwise turn out in November . . . but we would have 15,000 fewer turning out in May, by definition.

The sheer number of votes cast for local offices on election day is but one measure of the significance and importance of public participation, and by itself probably not the most useful. The value of our public participation in Alexandria is measured more importantly by the engagement of citizens in our political campaigns, both as volunteers and as contributors. It is measured by the openness of our process to new candidates, representing new energy and fresh ideas, in both parties. It is measured by campaigns featuring robust debate and competitive candidates. It is measured by the engagement of parents and citizens representing a broad range of opinions and a shared commitment to our children, in our nonpartisan School Board elections. It is measured by active participation in the public policy debate once the government has been elected, at public hearings such as this, and in other contacts with our elected representatives, both through our civic associations, community groups, and individually. And it is measured, perhaps most importantly, by the focus of public attention on the Alexandria candidates, the Alexandria issues and the Alexandria policy alternatives during our city election campaigns—the sort of concentrated attention which engages most of our citizens in that discussion through local media coverage, candidate forums, campaign events, and family and neighborhood discussions—whether all of them actually turn out to vote on election day or not.

By all of these measures, the quality and importance of public participation in the choice of our local government would be drastically reduced by shifting our municipal elections to November.

In Virginia, election of one or more national or state offices heads the ballot every November. With a closely contested presidential, senatorial or gubernatorial election heading the ticket, the ability of city council or school board candidates to attract campaign volunteers would be seriously impaired. Contributions would flow first to the highly sophisticated national and state fundraising campaigns, leaving little for the local candidates. Local candidates, especially new candidates, and most especially school board candidates, would find it virtually impossible to get their message heard amidst the torrent of communications about the national and state campaigns, and prohibitively expensive to do so. Which contest will the media, and the voters, concentrate on: Obama vs. Romney (or Condoleeza Rice!) for President? Webb vs. Allen for Senate? Deeds vs. McDonnell for Governor? Or what the order of finish will be among the Democratic candidates for Council and thus who becomes Vice Mayor?

Probably the single most important determinant in whether or not people vote in an election is how important they think it is to them to do so. They will vote if they believe, first, that the outcome of the election is important to their interest and quality of life, and second, that

their vote may be important in determining the outcome. If they feel that both the election and their vote is important, they will vote; if not, they won't.

Why don't more Alexandrians vote in our May elections? Probably because they're seen as less and less competitive over time. We Americans become engaged and involved if it's a truly competitive contest—whether it's Allen vs. Webb, Clinton vs. Obama, the Caps vs. the Penguins, or T.C. vs. Petersburg. Moving our local election from May to November, and thus removing the last vestige of uncertainty from the result, will probably not increase voters' interest in our local races, but reduce it still further.

It has been suggested that you should adopt this change in the election cycle because the recommendation of the blue-ribbon panel which you appointed to study it was unclear or inconclusive. Quite the contrary! That distinguished panel included members of both parties, a majority from Alexandria's majority party, and included former public office holders, both state and local, from both parties. It followed an exemplary process in developing its report, including the publication of pro-and-con issue papers on all of the alternatives it considered, and the solicitation of testimony both before and at a full-day public hearing on those alternatives. The process was a model of fairness, openness, objectivity and balance. In the end, two of the nine members recommended that the election be moved to November—but only if the term were changed to four years, and moved back to the year before the Presidential election year, so that it would never compete with a gubernatorial or Presidential election. Seven recommended that the election not be moved to November at all.

After the Hobson Commission's report, you appointed a special committee of two Councilmembers to review its work and make recommendations to the full Council. That committee reported that an earlier group, the 1993 Ad Hoc Committee on Election Procedures, had recommended "changing the time of City Council elections to the fall"—and thus that, faced with conflicting recommendations from the two commissions, Council should proceed on its own.

That characterization of the 1993 committee's report is incomplete and misleading, at best. The fact of the matter is that six of the seven members of that committee recommended

. . . that City Council elections be moved to the fall, in years coinciding with the quadrennial election of State Senator and Delegate to the General Assembly. These are the years when neither presidential electors nor governor is chosen. (Emphasis supplied.)

(The seventh member, who voted against moving the election to November even in "General Assembly" years, was the then-Chairman of the Alexandria Democratic Committee. He was concerned that "issues arising during the General Assembly contests might overshadow and obscure the local issues that ought to be the basis for City Council elections.")

Four of the seven members of the 1993 committee recommended that the term be lengthened to four years; three recommended “retain[ing] the present three-year terms, *unless City Council elections are moved to the fall.*” (Emphasis supplied.)

In sum, not one member of either of the distinguished bipartisan panels that studied the issue in 1993 or 2007 recommended that the election be moved to November regardless of any other changes—which is precisely what it is now proposed that you do by adopting this ordinance.

Indeed, even your two-member subcommittee (Mayor Euille and Councilman Wilson) recommended in their February 2008 report that, “in recognition of the significant community interest in this issue,” you adopt an ordinance moving the election to November only if, and after, an advisory referendum of the citizens and voters of Alexandria indicated that was their preference. It is now proposed that you adopt this fundamental change in the structure and composition of our government without any such referendum, and irrespective of the views of the voters.

It is suggested, finally, that Alexandria should move its elections to November because that is what many other jurisdictions do. But the general rule for the far-more-numerous counties under the Code of Virginia is that the election of the supervisors takes place every four years in the November before the Presidential election year; and the general rule for independent cities and towns is that the election of the Mayor and Council takes place in May of even-numbered years. To be sure, some cities and counties have taken advantage of the exceptions permitted under the Code to elect some or all of their governing body members in November. But I know of no other county, city or town in Virginia which has chosen to elect all of its members on a three-year cycle including Presidential and Gubernatorial Novembers—which is precisely what the ordinance you are considering would do, and *all* that it would do, irrevocably.

Your vote on this question will have a profound and decisive impact on how our community is governed, and whether those of us who truly care about our local government and policy will continue to have any effective voice in that process. You certainly have the authority and the political power to move the election of the Mayor, Council and School Board from May to November if you want to; it is far less certain whether it would be in Alexandria’s best interest for you to assert that power.

Conducting our city elections all by themselves, in May, tells our voters that this is the most important election they should follow and participate in as citizens of Alexandria, and in which they can have the most important impact. Shifting the election from May to November shifts it from the most important election to the least, from the top of the ticket to the bottom.

As a citizen who treasures the unique degree to which we now have the opportunity to participate in our local government, I implore you not to jeopardize our rich tradition of citizen government in Alexandria by moving the election to November.



21  
6-13-09



Steve Johnson  
<virginiano1@comcast.net>

06/13/2009 08:38 AM

Please respond to  
Steve Johnson  
<virginiano1@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: moving city elections to November



Time: [Sat Jun 13, 2009 08:38:39] IP Address: [98.204.143.209]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Steve

**Last Name:** Johnson

**Street Address:** 327 N. Latham St.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:** 703-370-3590

**Email Address:** virginiano1@comcast.net

**Subject:** moving city elections to November

As one of those unfortunately rare voters who makes it a point to vote in every election, I strongly support moving the city council/mayor/school board elections to November, and to make these 4-year terms coincident with Congressional/Presidential elections, or preferably with VA statewide elections.

In a time of serious budget constraints, the expense to the city of holding separate elections strikes me as inefficient and wasteful.

While I understand the counter-argument that city races would get 'lost in the crowd', I think the same thing occurs now: people don't see council and school board races as important enough to be worth a

**Comments:** separate trip to the polls. Either that or -a kazillion yard and boulevard signs notwithstanding- voters have completely tuned out the off-cycle elections. With all due respect to the newly-elected city councillors affiliated with the Republican Party, I find GOP chair Marston's published quotations (this is a cynical ploy by the Democratic party to lock down

their majority) to be incredibly self-serving and suggests that he opposes encouraging higher voter turnout for self-serving political reasons.

I

believe putting citywide elections on the same cycle as statewide races would increase voter turnout and would save the city money.

Steve Johnson

21  
6-13-09



**Sandy Modell**  
<smodell@comcast.net>

06/13/2009 08:41 AM

Please respond to  
Sandy Modell  
<smodell@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Council Elections



**Time: [Sat Jun 13, 2009 08:41:25] IP Address: [98.204.91.187]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Sandy  
**Last Name:** Modell  
**Street Address:** 400 E. Custis Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 5712389145  
**Email Address:** smodell@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Council Elections  
I support moving the City Council elections to November for all the reasons  
**Comments:** stated already. It makes good sense all the way around.

21

6-13-09



Catie Slye  
<catie.slye@gmail.com>

06/13/2009 11:39 AM

Please respond to  
Catie Slye  
<catie.slye@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Docket Item 21



Time: [Sat Jun 13, 2009 11:39:35] IP Address: [138.88.7.206]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Catie  
**Last Name:** Slye  
**Street Address:** 2923 Landover Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 7035184789  
**Email Address:** catie.slye@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Docket Item 21  
I support moving the City Council and Mayor Elections from May to November.  
**Comments:**

21  
6-13-09



**Nadine Bacaj**  
<nbacaj@comcast.net>

06/13/2009 07:05 PM

Please respond to  
Nadine Bacaj  
<nbacaj@comcast.net>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Stop the Lame Duck City Council from changing  
the May Elections to November

**Time: [Sat Jun 13, 2009 19:05:57] IP Address: [68.33.215.245]**

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council

**First Name:** Nadine

**Last Name:** Bacaj

**Street Address:** 5116 Donovan Drive, #204

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:**

**Email Address:** nbacaj@comcast.net

**Subject:** Stop the Lame Duck City Council from changing the May Elections to November  
Dear City Clerk, Clerk of Council and Council Memebers, .

Please, I want

the May elections to stay in May. I do not appreciate the Democrats

forcing their way to change when the elections take place.

I am 45 years

**Comments:** old and sick of Democrat oppression in Alexandria for 40

years.

Sincerely,

Nadine Bacaj

21  
6-13-09



**Ken Harvey**  
<kenbusiness@comcast.net>

06/14/2009 09:07 PM

Please respond to  
Ken Harvey  
<kenbusiness@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: May Elections



**Time: [Sun Jun 14, 2009 21:07:13] IP Address: [68.34.7.55]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ken  
**Last Name:** Harvey  
**Street Address:** 221 Princess Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** kenbusiness@comcast.net  
**Subject:** May Elections  
I am opposed to moving the May elections to November. May elections are an Alexandrian tradition dating back to the 1780's.  
**Comments:** Those who lost the recent election have no business representing the people of Alexandria.  
That is precisely why they lost.

21  
6-13-09



**Sandy Modell**  
<smodell@comcast.net>

06/13/2009 08:41 AM

Please respond to  
Sandy Modell  
<smodell@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Council Elections

**Time:** [Sat Jun 13, 2009 08:41:25] **IP Address:** [98.204.91.187]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Sandy  
**Last Name:** Modell  
**Street Address:** 400 E. Custis Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 5712389145  
**Email Address:** smodell@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Council Elections  
I support moving the City Council elections to November for all the reasons  
**Comments:** stated already. It makes good sense all the way around.

21  
6-13-09



**Alicia Hughes**  
<aliciaruhughes@yahoo.com>

06/12/2009 02:19 PM

Please respond to  
Alicia Hughes  
<aliciaruhughes@yahoo.com>

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Item 21 - Ordinance to Move Elections to November

**Time: [Fri Jun 12, 2009 14:19:07] IP Address: [69.143.40.68]**

**Issue Type:** City Clerk and Clerk of Council

**First Name:** Alicia

**Last Name:** Hughes

**Street Address:**

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** Virginia

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:**

**Email Address:** aliciaruhughes@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Item 21 - Ordinance to Move Elections to November

Dear Jackie:

Attached please find my comments for the record on

**Comments:** tomorrow's Item 21.

Warm regards,  
Alicia

**Attachment:** 2d8982d28ae6583f19fe48da6235941d.doc



2d8982d28ae6583f19fe48da6235941d.doc



Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

I regret that I am unable to be present today as you consider moving our municipal elections from May to November, an issue of extraordinary interest and importance to a great many Alexandrians. I have a conflicting commitment that has pulled me to Charlottesville. My UVA Sorensen Institute Political Leaders Program meets this weekend with college student leaders from around the Commonwealth to discuss geographic interdependence and ways we can all come together to make Virginia a better place to live.

I write to ask you kindly to defer consideration of moving our elections from May to November. As you all are aware, you do not retain the ability to wholly consider the issues of interest to our electorate on this topic at this time. It simply does not make sense to consider this issue piecemeal.

I have written opinion editorials on this topic and the 2007 Hobson Commission report in the *Alexandria Gazette Packet* and make these comments in the spirit of those editorials. I note for the record, based on an article written by Michael Lee Pope in this week's edition, that Former Alexandria Mayor and State Senator Patsy Ticer agrees with the position I have taken that we need to seek authority from the General Assembly to make changes to our charter before moving forward at all.

This Council approved, and the Mayor appointed a Commission of concerned citizens ["the Hobson Commission"] to consider making election changes. After studying the issues for three months and a period of public comment, they voted seven to two to leave the elections in May. And the two in favor of a move to November, Bob Calhoun and Ana Leider, conditioned their support on terms that you lack the authority to perfect.

While you may now be kicking yourself for not doing it sooner, this Council could have easily, in either the 2008 or the 2009 Legislative Session, sought authority from the General Assembly to enable changes to the length of terms, to determine staggering terms, and whether to put elections in each year preceding an election year, etc. And though the same would make Item 21 ripe for discussion and a vote today, you did not. As a result of this fact and the most recent election, moving forward now looks more like a political power play than as a real concern for the interests of our electorate. Public service requires that we put people first. A vote today on this issue is not keeping Alexandrians first. And for at least two of you, a vote today represents a conflict of interest, because you stood for re-election and were defeated.

While there may be one or two of you stating a wholehearted intention to make additional changes to our elections later but just wanting to get the ball moving now, in the absence of a vote, the same holds no weight, because your intent does not effect change, absent authority.

If you move forward today, you do so against in the desire of a great many Alexandrians who transcend neighborhoods, race, socioeconomic status and political affiliation. If you

do make this change today, there are more people standing against your decision than with it, and this is representative government. While we cannot always make everyone happy, we have seen that people here do vote their concerns and have long memories on issues that affect them in manners they dislike. The people will remember and what a horrible legacy this will be.

In closing, I do understand that when this matter does pass, it must go to the Department of Justice for pre-clearance pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Your intent to make additional changes does not go with it. It stands alone. Given the history and struggle of minorities for the right to vote in this country, anything that triggers the Voting Rights Act must be treated very delicately. Today's action goes to the heart of a fundamental issue – the right to vote, which includes how and when we vote. The Justice Department has grave concerns for classes of persons the Voting Rights Act was designed to protect, namely minorities, having/retaining the ability to elect their candidates of choice with this move. While I do understand the argument that greater turnout will ensure this, there are certainly arguments against this point that merit consideration.

I have been advised that Justice will contact elected officials of color, past and present, and concerned community groups for comment. I can only think of one living African-American elected official in Alexandria, past or present who will support the move from May to November under today's conditions. The others, who have run and won in May as Democrats, Independents and Republicans alike are all against a move at this time with your limited authority. In view of the foregoing, implore you to please defer this vote. Thank you for your consideration and

Warm regards,  
Alicia Hughes  
City Councilwoman-elect

21  
6-13-09



**Steve Johnson**  
<virginiano1@comcast.net>

06/13/2009 08:38 AM

Please respond to  
Steve Johnson  
<virginiano1@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: moving city elections to November



**Time: [Sat Jun 13, 2009 08:38:39] IP Address: [98.204.143.209]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Steve

**Last Name:** Johnson

**Street Address:** 327 N. Latham St.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:** 703-370-3590

**Email Address:** virginiano1@comcast.net

**Subject:** moving city elections to November

As one of those unfortunately rare voters who makes it a point to vote in every election, I strongly support moving the city council/mayor/school board elections to November, and to make these 4-year terms coincident with Congressional/Presidential elections, or preferably with VA statewide elections.

In a time of serious budget constraints, the expense to the city of holding separate elections strikes me as inefficient and wasteful.

While I understand the counter-argument that city races would get 'lost in the crowd', I think the same thing occurs now: people don't see council and school board races as important enough to be worth a

**Comments:** separate trip to the polls. Either that or -a kazillion yard and boulevard signs notwithstanding- voters have completely tuned out the off-cycle elections. With all due respect to the newly-elected city councillors affiliated with the Republican Party, I find GOP chair Marston's published quotations (this is a cynical ploy by the Democratic party to lock down

their majority) to be incredibly self-serving and suggests that he opposes encouraging higher voter turnout for self-serving political reasons.

I

believe putting citywide elections on the same cycle as statewide races would increase voter turnout and would save the city money.

Steve Johnson

21  
6-13-09



Mary Ann Shelton  
<mashelton@hotmail.com>

06/03/2009 10:09 PM

Please respond to  
Mary Ann Shelton  
<mashelton@hotmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: May versus November elections



Time: [Wed Jun 03, 2009 22:09:24] IP Address: [166.203.186.206]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Mary Ann

**Last Name:** Shelton  
1200 Braddock Place #703

**Street Address:**

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 571 451-8300

**Email Address:** mashelton@hotmail.com

**Subject:** May versus November elections  
Dear Mayor & Council members,

Please leave City Council elections as  
the wonderful local civic May Spring ritual in Alexandria I look forward to  
and prefer.

Oddly, in my 19 years in Alexandria, changing election time  
of year has not been a voter priority before that I know of.

Thank

you for remembering we Alexandrians without jobs suffering in this economy,  
wishing to keep our homes &  
communities afloat. Many of my

**Comments:** neighbors are unemployed and worried about taxes, the economy, and  
crime.

Thank you again for your service to us.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann

Shelton  
Parker Gray Neighborhood  
Board Member of Braddock Place

Condominiums (1994-2000)

21  
6-13-09



Alyssa Murray  
<a\_murray@comcast.net>

06/03/2009 07:31 PM

Please respond to  
Alyssa Murray  
<a\_murray@comcast.net>

To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject: COA Contact Us: May Elections

Time: [Wed Jun 03, 2009 19:31:37] IP Address: [69.140.77.7]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Alyssa  
**Last Name:** Murray  
**Street Address:** 307 Yoakum Parkway, #916  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703.402.9882  
**Email Address:** a\_murray@comcast.net  
**Subject:** May Elections  
I support May, rather than November election for City Council. Although separate elections require going to the voting booths more than once, it is not inconvenient, and I can focus on the individual candidate qualifications and platforms without having to consider all the other candidates running in November election.

21  
6-13-09



**Daniel Bram**  
<dpbram@yahoo.com>

06/03/2009 06:43 PM

Please respond to  
Daniel Bram  
<dpbram@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Council Election Date



**Time: [Wed Jun 03, 2009 18:43:17] IP Address: [76.21.203.176]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Daniel  
**Last Name:** Bram  
**Street Address:** 2607 Gadsby Pl  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22311  
**Phone:** 757-869-0860  
**Email Address:** dpbram@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Council Election Date

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

As a resident of Alexandria City, I very

much like city council elections being held in the month of May. If the election were held in November, it would be very difficult to be familiar with all of the candidates running for election, especially when top billed races such as President, Senator, or Governor are being contested. The press coverage on the higher elections would leave little room on the pages of the local newspapers for Alexandria City elections. By having the election in May, the City is given lots of coverage which is only good for our community. The idea's of those standing for election and the coverage they receive during May further buttress to the rest of Northern Virginia why Alexandria is such a great place to live and do business. I strongly urge the Council to maintain May elections for City Council.

**Comments:**

Respectfully,



Daniel Bram

21  
6-13-09



Ryan Carney  
<ryantcarney@yahoo.com>

06/03/2009 04:35 PM

Please respond to  
Ryan Carney  
<ryantcarney@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: proposal to move the City Council elections



Time: [Wed Jun 03, 2009 16:35:54] IP Address: [68.163.72.83]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ryan  
**Last Name:** Carney  
**Street Address:** 5230 Harold Secord Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-919-1672  
**Email Address:** ryantcarney@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** proposal to move the City Council elections  
I would like to voice my disagreement on the proposal to move the elections to November. This was my wife and my first election living in Alexandria. We enjoyed getting to hear the debate of issues and the focus being on local, Alexandria policies. I fear that if you move it to November, all local issues of concern will be lost to the focus on the national and statewide races.

21  
6-13-09



"The Lantzy's"  
<dllantzy@comcast.net>

06/03/2009 04:11 PM

Please respond to  
"The Lantzy's"  
<dllantzy@comcast.net>

To "Justin M Wilson" <justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov>,  
<ludgaines@aol.com>, "Redella S. Pepper"  
<delpepper@aol.com>, "Rob Krupicka" <rob@krupicka.com>,  
cc <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject Ordinance to move City Council elections

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

I am writing to let you know I am opposed to moving the City Council elections to November. I think it is important for our local elections to be held at a time when people can focus on the candidates for local office. National issues are overwhelming in themselves, and it would be too confusing to have local elections at the same time. It is difficult for most folks, and that includes me, to follow all the important issues that City Council can impact and the relevant decisions they make. I would find it very hard to focus my attention on the local election at the same time as national and state elections. Our right to vote is one of our most important freedoms. It should not be done as a matter of convenience to the local government. As part of the right to vote, it is also important to have the appropriate time to study local issues and candidates apart from issues of national concern. There is a cost for freedom, and one of those costs is whatever it takes to hold elections. No one minds paying taxes for the basic rights of freedom. Please keep local elections in May.

Sincerely,  
Laura Lantzy

21  
6-13-09



ellen cleary <emclear@aol.com>

06/03/2009 01:48 PM

Please respond to  
ellen cleary <emclear@aol.com>

To william.cuille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: timing of elections



Time: [Wed Jun 03, 2009 13:48:08] IP Address: [199.89.80.17]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** ellen

**Last Name:** cleary

**Street Address:** 8206 mack street

**City:** ALEXANDRIA

**State:** va

**Zip:** 22308

**Phone:** 703-765-1991

**Email Address:** emclear@aol.com

**Subject:** timing of elections

PLEASE ALLOW CITY ELECTIONS TO CONTINUE TO BE HELD IN MAY, AWAY FROM THE

DELUGE OF STATE AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS. CANDIDATES WOULD HAVE A MUCH MORE

DIFFICULT TIME COMPETING WITH ALL THE NOISE THAT ACCOMPANIES THESE

LARGER ELECTIONS AND THE VOTERS WOULD BE OVERLOADED AND NOT ABLE TO FOCUS

**Comments:** ON THE IMPORTANT BUSINESS OF ELECTING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES.

OUR

CITY IS TOO IMPORTANT TO GET SHOVELED IN WITH ALL OTHERS AND WE DESERVE

A COMPLETELY SEPARATE ELECTION PROCESS.

THANK YOU  
ELLEN CLEARY

21  
6-13-09



**Redmond James Hogan**  
<redmondjhogan@aol.com>

06/03/2009 01:30 PM

Please respond to  
Redmond James Hogan  
<redmondjhogan@aol.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Moyoral and Council elections

**Time: [Wed Jun 03, 2009 13:30:44] IP Address: [64.12.116.203]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Redmond James  
**Last Name:** Hogan  
**Street Address:** 1215 Russell Rd  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 7036833909  
**Email Address:** redmondjhogan@aol.com

**Subject:** Moyoral and Council elections  
Dear Mr Mayor and members of the Council,

**Comments:**  
I am writing to strongly urge  
you NOT to change the May elections for your offices. Having the time to  
meet, read and listen to candidates whose offices most directly affect our  
lives is made possible by the current system. Elections in November would  
find us voters distracted by statewide and national campaigns and, I  
believe the issues most important to Alexandria would not receive the  
attention they merit.  
Thank you for your consideration. And, thank you for  
your work on behalf of all of us.

21  
6-13-09



**Rosalind Bovey**  
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

05/31/2009 07:39 PM

Please respond to  
Rosalind Bovey  
<boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net>

To: william.cuille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject: COA Contact Us: Moving City Council election from May to Nov.

**Time: [Sun May 31, 2009 19:39:03] IP Address: [67.101.59.90]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Rosalind  
**Last Name:** Bovey  
**Street Address:** 2603 Valley Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703 549-0641  
**Email Address:** boveyoffice@worldnet.att.net  
**Subject:** Moving City Council election from May to Nov.  
To the Mayor and Members of City Council

I am writing in regard to the current Council's proposal to change Council Elections from May to November. I am amazed that this Council has chosen to go against the advice of a Council appointed bipartisan commission which submitted its recommendations in April 2008. After weeks of study with public hearings and many issues considered, seven of the nine members of that commission voted to recommend that Council elections continue to be held in May.

**Comments:**

A November election will certainly give the majority party the advantage and put candidates from other parties and persuasions at a disadvantage. To put this on the current Council docket before the end of June is not "fair play". I do not think that one Republican and one independent are going to endanger the Democrat party in Alexandria. Alexandria politics have been relatively genteel and it makes me sad to say

that this is not. Rosalind Bovey

21  
6-13-09



Thomas Murphy  
<murphyth@silverbulletinc.com>  
>

06/04/2009 01:28 PM

Please respond to  
Thomas Murphy  
<murphyth@silverbulletinc.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Moving City Counsel Elections

Time: [Thu Jun 04, 2009 13:28:14] IP Address: [76.21.195.10]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Thomas  
**Last Name:** Murphy  
**Street Address:** 561 East Nelson Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-684-5106  
**Email Address:** murphyth@silverbulletinc.com  
**Subject:** Moving City Counsel Elections  
I strongly oppose moving the elections to November. I full back Frank Fannon's position to keep them in May to avoid the huge distraction of other elections. It just serves to subvert the election process. Please  
**Comments:** vote NO.



21  
6-13-09



**David Drachsler**  
<ddrachsler@comcast.net>

05/28/2009 08:49 PM

Please respond to  
David Drachsler  
<ddrachsler@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: November local elections



**Time: [Thu May 28, 2009 20:49:26] IP Address: [76.21.201.185]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** David

**Last Name:** Drachsler

**Street Address:** 3313 Carolina Place

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22305

**Phone:** 703 549-5670

**Email Address:** ddrachsler@comcast.net

**Subject:** November local elections

Suzi and I strongly urge you to vote for the ordinance on the docket for final passage on June 13 to move the Alexandria local elections to November. The Alexandria Times recently published the election statistics going back to 1973. Even though voter registration increased between 2006 and 2009 from almost 78,000 to almost 94,000, total voter turnout in absolute numbers, 14,419, was the lowest it has been since 1973, when there were only 49,000 registered voters. In percentage terms, it was the lowest ever in that 36 year period. We think it is a threat to democracy when fewer than 10 percent of the population chooses all its leaders.

21  
6-13-09



**David Drachsler**  
<ddrachsler@comcast.net>

05/28/2009 08:49 PM

Please respond to  
David Drachsler  
<ddrachsler@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: November local elections



**Time: [Thu May 28, 2009 20:49:26] IP Address: [76.21.201.185]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** David

**Last Name:** Drachsler

**Street Address:** 3313 Carolina Place

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22305

**Phone:** 703 549-5670

**Email Address:** ddrachsler@comcast.net

**Subject:** November local elections

Suzi and I strongly urge you to vote for the ordinance on the docket for

final passage on June 13 to move the Alexandria local elections to

November. The Alexandria Times recently published the election statistics

going back to 1973. Even though voter registration increased between 2006

**Comments:** and 2009 from almost 78,000 to almost 94,000, total voter turnout in

absolute numbers, 14,419, was the lowest it has been since 1973, when

there were only 49,000 registered voters. In percentage terms, it was the

lowest ever in that 36 year period. We think it is a threat to democracy

when fewer than 10 percent of the population chooses all its leaders.

21  
6-13-09



**Judy Guse-Noritake**  
<jnoritake@nka-arch.com>

06/03/2009 11:22 AM

Please respond to  
Judy Guse-Noritake  
<jnoritake@nka-arch.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Moving local elections to November

**Time: [Wed Jun 03, 2009 11:22:58] IP Address: [67.100.157.217]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Judy  
**Last Name:** Guse-Noritake  
**Street Address:** 605 Prince Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Va.  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7034721520  
**Email Address:** jnoritake@nka-arch.com  
**Subject:** Moving local elections to November

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

As I will be unable to attend and

testify at your hearing on the ordinance to move local elections to the  
November ballot, please accept this communication as my formal testimony  
for the record in that hearing.

I feel strongly that the local elections  
for Mayor, City Council, the School Board, Sheriff, etc., should all be  
moved to November and appear on the ballot with other state and federal  
candidates. The resources expended to carry out separate elections are no  
longer affordable and cannot be justified in my opinion. The fear that  
local issues cannot be thoroughly debated at the same time state and/or  
national issues are being debated is not valid. Most other city and county  
elections seem to manage full debate of local issues and much higher voter  
turn out than Alexandria's local elections by having local elections during  
regular November cycles.

I think the people of Alexandria just simply

**Comments:**

get tired of elections, the fund raising, the rhetoric. I know I do. In the current climate of election politics the “business” that has grown up around ALL elections has stripped much of the meaning – the meaning of grassroots citizen participation in electing a representative and democratic government - from them. We seem to roll from one election to another, with “robo” calls coming even for our local elections now. Our local elections this year were wedged between the national election and the fall State election. It is too much. People actually “tuned out” locally this year. I heard it from many.

I urge you to consolidate our local elections with the fall elections by supporting the resolution before you. And as a second step to take up at a later date I would urge you to go a step further and stagger the terms of the members of City Council and the School Board.

Regards,

Judy Guse-Noritake

21  
6-13-09



**Ann & Rick Dorman**  
<adorman@meetingsandeventsofdistinction.com>

06/08/2009 02:02 PM

Please respond to  
Ann & Rick Dorman  
<adorman@meetingsandeventsofdistinction.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Moving elections from May to November

**Time: [Mon Jun 08, 2009 14:02:57] IP Address: [69.143.50.73]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ann & Rick  
**Last Name:** Dorman  
**Street Address:** 2724 Kenwood Avenue  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703.998.5614  
**Email Address:** adorman@meetingsandeventsofdistinction.com

**Subject:** Moving elections from May to November  
Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

We had hoped to be in attendance  
on Saturday; however, business has taken us out of the City. We did want  
to be on record in support of moving the elections of Mayor, Council and  
School Board from May to November. We believe this is an important move to  
make because:  
o The turnout for May elections is abysmal;  
o People are  
accustomed to voting in November;  
o The City of Alexandria, like many

**Comments:** governments, is in a bad financial state. Why are we wasting money on all  
these elections while staff and services are being cut? Consolidate the  
elections!  
o This move will also take the time of election away from the  
same time as the final work on the City budget. Finalizing the budget is a  
more worthwhile expense of time and effort!  
Please consider our desire

to move the elections when you undertake this matter on Saturday, June 13th. We will eagerly follow your votes and hope you will put an end to needless spring elections.

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

We had hoped to be in attendance on Saturday; however, business has taken us out of the City. We did want to be on record in support of moving the elections of Mayor, Council and School Board from May to November. We believe this is an important move to make because:

- The turnout for May elections is abysmal;
- People are accustomed to voting in November;
- The City of Alexandria, like many governments, is in a bad financial state. Why are we wasting money on all these elections while staff and services are being cut? Consolidate the elections!
- This move will also take the time of election away from the same time as the final work on the City budget. Finalizing the budget is a more worthwhile expense of time and effort!

Please consider our desire to move the elections when you undertake this matter on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. We will eagerly follow your votes and hope you will put an end to needless spring elections.

Richard and Ann Dorman  
2724 Kenwood Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22302

21  
6-13-09



**Cassidy Rasnick**  
<cassidy.rasnick@gmail.com>

06/08/2009 01:52 PM

Please respond to  
Cassidy Rasnick  
<cassidy.rasnick@gmail.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: May to Novemeber elections

**Time: [Mon Jun 08, 2009 13:52:37] IP Address: [156.33.92.64]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Cassidy  
**Last Name:** Rasnick  
**Street Address:** 1420 W Abingdon Dr.  
Apt 119  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 540-309-3972  
**Email Address:** cassidy.rasnick@gmail.com  
**Subject:** May to Novemeber elections

To Whom It May Concern-  
As an Alexandria resident, I want to urge you  
all to change the local elections from May to November. The city wastes  
\$60,000 holding May elections, at a time that's inconvenient for citizens  
to participate. We should be encouraging participation, not making the  
**Comments:** process more difficult. Having all offices elected in November is  
common-sense, and responsible both fiscally and to the people.  
Thank  
you,  
Cassidy Rasnick





**Courtney Dozier**  
<courtneydozier@yahoo.com>

06/08/2009 05:17 PM

Please respond to  
Courtney Dozier  
<courtneydozier@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: moving local elections to November

21  
6-13-09

**Time: [Mon Jun 08, 2009 17:17:01] IP Address: [156.33.92.18]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Courtney

**Last Name:** Dozier

**Street Address:** 1006 Oronoco St.  
#2

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:**

**Email Address:** courtneydozier@yahoo.com

**Subject:** moving local elections to November

I'm writing to urge members of the council to consider moving local elections from May to November. Voter turnout in these elections is historically low, with this year a mere 15% of Alexandria voters participating.

I know there are many arguments that can be made on both sides of this issue. Ultimately, I believe that moving local elections to November will save the City much needed financial resources (\$60,000) as well as encourage greater voter participation. Candidates will be forced to communicate with more voters (instead of targeting an ever decreasing pool of typical May voters) and more voters will participate in the election of their local elected officials...the people who, even more so than our federal and statewide elected officials,

affect our daily lives.

Thank you.

21  
6-13-09



**Lea Anne Foster**  
<leannefoster@yahoo.com>

06/04/2009 03:52 PM

Please respond to  
Lea Anne Foster  
<leannefoster@yahoo.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Ordinance to change local election to Nov

**Time: [Thu Jun 04, 2009 15:52:17] IP Address: [69.143.54.9]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Lea Anne  
**Last Name:** Foster  
**Street Address:** 1100 Quaker Hill Drive  
#321  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 5719701281  
**Email Address:** leannefoster@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Ordinance to change local election to Nov  
Dear Mayor Euille and Honorable Council Members:

As an active citizen  
of Alexandria, I am writing to express my support for keeping our current  
election calendar as is. We should maintain our May and November election  
dates in Alexandria.

Last month, I was pleased to go into my polling  
place to cast my votes in the Mayoral, City Council and School Board  
Elections. Many of my neighbors joined me on May 5th because they care  
about our city. In the words of City Registrar Tom Parkins in the  
Alexandria Times on May 14, 2009, "Voters in local elections tend to be  
hardcore voters who have their registrations up to date ... they are much  
better prepared to vote." Don't we want to that passion and conviction  
throughout Alexandria? Rather than simply reshuffling the deck chairs by  
changing dates, our energies should be spent on getting more of our fellow  
citizens involved so that they'll be the "prepared" voters that Mr. Parkins

described.

**Comments:**

Some proponents of this change have argued that it would result in cost savings. Not so, according to City Registrar Parkins, again quoted in the Alexandria Times article, "If we had longer ballots from combining elections, there would be the expense of buying more machinery or splitting precincts." It seems that any perceived savings by eliminating the May election would result in a more expensive November election. As a fiscal conservative, this doesn't sway me.

Let's continue to vote in May and November. We should work together to increase the sense of civic duty among Alexandrians. We won't accomplish this by changing election dates; we'll make it happen by continuing the progress in our city so that its citizens want to be a part of shaping their future.

Thank you for your time and attention, but more importantly, thank you for your service.  
Lea

Anne Foster

**Attachment:** 23bf938c6ec976006c19f1679919038.doc



23bf938c6ec976006c19f1679919038.doc



Mary Riley  
<maryriley@comcast.net>

06/05/2009 04:16 PM

Please respond to  
Mary Riley  
<maryriley@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject COA Contact Us: Council Elections

21  
6-13-09

**Time: [Fri Jun 05, 2009 16:16:55] IP Address: [68.34.7.40]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Mary

**Last Name:** Riley

**Street Address:** 202 E. Alexandria Avenue

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-876-8823

**Email Address:** maryriley@comcast.net

**Subject:** Council Elections

I am in favor of moving the Mayoral and Council elections to November. The voter turnout in the recent election (and in prior elections) was abysmal.

Not only will more people participate in the process with a move to

**Comments:** November elections, but in these bad economic times, it makes sense financially too.

Thank you.

21  
6-13-09



George McDonald  
<george-mcdonald@comcast.net>  
>

06/05/2009 04:30 PM

Please respond to  
George McDonald  
<george-mcdonald@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Moving City Elections to November



Time: [Fri Jun 05, 2009 16:30:30] IP Address: [68.34.7.40]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** George

**Last Name:** McDonald

**Street Address:** 202 E. Alexandria Avenue

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-836-2450

**Email Address:** george-mcdonald@comcast.net

**Subject:** Moving City Elections to November

I support the proposal to move Alexandria City Council and School Board elections from May to November, beginning in 2012.

Turn-out for May city elections is embarrassingly small -- raising a question in my mind about the legitimacy of the results. I believe that citizens must protect their right to vote by exercising it, and I vote in every election held. But I'm clearly in a minority in our city.

Turn-out is much greater in November and, while not all those who come out to vote in state and national elections may vote for city offices, I'm confident that many will and the outcome will represent the views of more of our fellow citizens.

**Comments:** Some express concern that the extra voters may not be well-informed about local issues. My sense is that, if folks are going to the polls, most will inform themselves about the issues so as to cast a responsible ballot.

think that May elections are an inconvenience that holds down  
turn-out.

An argument that Democrats would be helped by a move of the  
elections to November is an anti-democratic (small d) one -- "let's  
keep turn-out low so that we have a better chance of  
winning."

Let's make it easier for Alexandria citizens to have a  
voice in local matters; let's move city elections to November!

21  
6-13-09



George McDonald  
<george-mcdonald@comcast.net  
>

06/05/2009 04:30 PM

Please respond to  
George McDonald  
<george-mcdonald@comcast.net>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Moving City Elections to November

**Time: [Fri Jun 05, 2009 16:30:30] IP Address: [68.34.7.40]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** George  
**Last Name:** McDonald  
**Street Address:** 202 E. Alexandria Avenue  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-836-2450  
**Email Address:** george-mcdonald@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Moving City Elections to November  
I support the proposal to move Alexandria City Council and School Board elections from May to November, beginning in 2012.  
  
Turn-out for May city elections is embarrassingly small -- raising a question in my mind about the legitimacy of the results. I believe that citizens must protect their right to vote by exercising it, and I vote in every election held. But I'm clearly in a minority in our city.  
  
Turn-out is much greater in November and, while not all those who come out to vote in state and national elections may vote for city offices, I'm confident that many will and the outcome will represent the views of more of our fellow citizens.  
**Comments:** Some express concern that the extra voters may not be well-informed about local issues. My sense is that, if folks are going to the polls, most will inform themselves about the issues so as to cast a responsible ballot.

|



think that May elections are an inconvenience that holds down  
turn-out.

An argument that Democrats would be helped by a move of the  
elections to November is an anti-democratic (small d) one -- "let's  
keep turn-out low so that we have a better chance of  
winning."

Let's make it easier for Alexandria citizens to have a  
voice in local matters; let's move city elections to November!

## What's Wrong With Local Elections In May?

- Extra cost to the taxpayer to run this election (and related March Council primaries if conducted in future)
- Incumbent Council members should be studying budget options in Feb/Mar/Apr -- not campaigning
- Very few people vote and this impacts turnout in June as well
- Being out of step with election cycles of most of the rest of the State makes for conflicting schedules with state agencies/state political parties
- Hard to explain the need to election weary citizens -- some May voters thought they were voting for Governor
- Too close to the June primaries which can't be moved
  - Compromises training for June election officials
  - If May recount required, June primary hard to conduct
  - City candidates have a hard time raising money and being heard whenever June primary race(s) are contested
- A better option exists -- November of Presidential Year + 3
  - Campaigning and turnout for State Senate/State Delegate/Clerk of the Court races is seldom very great but this election must be held
  - Getting there will be awkward because the election in November 2012 will also include races for Congressman, one Senator and the President
  - However, a three year term election for Council in 2012 (till Presidential Year + 3 i.e., 2015) will set up that year to be the perfect time to elect members to the first four year terms
  - This timing gives several years to debate the exact nature of the other aspects of the necessary Charter Change

## Pass The "Move To November" Ordinance Now!

John Howard Eisenhour  
630 South Pitt Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

21  
6-13-09



**Bud Miller**  
<ersalexandria@msn.com>

06/18/2009 09:20 PM

Please respond to  
Bud Miller  
<ersalexandria@msn.com>

To william.euille@alexandriava.gov,  
timothy.lovain@alexandriava.gov, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Well Done!



Time: [Thu Jun 18, 2009 21:20:04] IP Address: [68.246.23.251]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Bud

**Last Name:** Miller

**Street Address:** 115-D South Saint Asaph Street

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** (703) 684-5312

**Email Address:** ersalexandria@msn.com

**Subject:** Well Done!

I would like to congratulate Vice Mayor Pepper and Councilman Gaines for supporting Democracy and the integrity of our elections by their votes over the weekend. Their example should serve to educate those who have manipulated our electoral process, have marred the reputation of the City and left an indelible stain on their reputations.

**Comments:** I look forward to the

day when Alexandria has leaders who will support the Constitution and actually practice the democratic principles they espouse.

It may take

some time, but hope springs eternal.