

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 110

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF KENT AND ITS COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT THAT SAFE AND FAIR VOTING ENVIRONMENTS FOR VOTERS IS A RIGHT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the right to vote is a fundamental democratic principle protected by law, and every citizen deserves to participate in elections free from intimidation or coercion; and

WHEREAS, intimidation at polling places undermines the voting process, discourages voter participation, and disproportionately affects marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, voters can have confidence in election outcomes *only if* they can trust that the process is fair and honest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. The City of Kent and its Council affirm our commitment and belief that ensuring safe, accessible, and fair voting for all citizens is a right and by calling for the following measures:

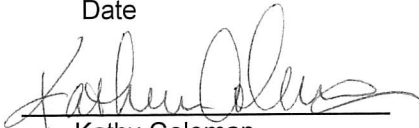
- a. **Prohibition of Intimidation:** We support the strict enforcement of laws prohibiting voter intimidation, including aggressive questioning, harassment, or any actions that may deter individuals from exercising their right to vote.
- b. **Training for Poll Workers:** We support the implementation of comprehensive training programs for poll workers to recognize and address intimidation tactics, ensuring they can provide immediate assistance to affected voters.
- c. **Clear Reporting Mechanisms:** We urge the establishment of clear, accessible channels for voters to report incidents of intimidation, with assurances of anonymity and protection for those who come forward.
- d. **Monitoring and Accountability:** We support the deployment of independent observers to monitor polling places and report any incidents of intimidation, ensuring accountability and transparency in the electoral process.
- e. **State and Local Voter Reporting:** We urge any voter who believes that they are a victim of voter intimidation to call local law enforcement agencies, the prosecutor's office, the Ohio Secretary of State's Election Integrity Department, the Ohio Attorney General's Office and/or Ohio's Election Protection Hotline.

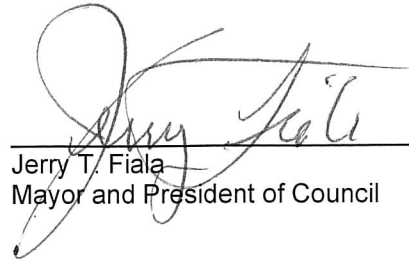
SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formation action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reason manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediate after passage.

PASSED: October 16, 2024
Date

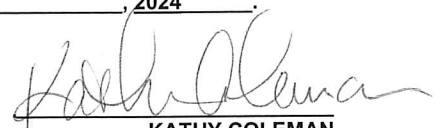
EFFECTIVE: October 16, 2024
Date

ATTEST: 
Kathy Coleman
Interim Clerk of Council


Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

I, KATHY COLEMAN, INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *RESOLUTION* No. 2024-110, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON October, 2024.

(SEAL)


KATHY COLEMAN
INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL