



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Marlin and City Council Members

FROM: Aaron Ammons, Alderman Ward 3

DATE: August 2, 2018

SUBJECT: A Resolution Declaring our Support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its Amendments

Given the increased concern around cyber security, the recent 2016 hacking of Illinois voter files, and the growing concerns around voter suppression, it is important that the city of Urbana be on record, taking a stance for democracy. We must do all that we can, in any legal way that we can, to protect voters information and to protect the most sacred right of a democracy, the right to vote.

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, and the subsequent Congressional Amendments, were designed to give uninhibited access to the ballot box for people of color. The fact that African Americans and other racial "minorities" were denied this basic right, and had no other choice but to launch the Civil Rights Movement to gain it, is evidence of the need for us to publicly declare our continued support for it.

Women, children and many men lost their lives to secure this fundamental right and it is under attack again. The removal of sections 4 and 5 of the VRA has resulted in a resurgence of archaic voter ID laws and various ways to purge legitimate registered voters from the County Clerk rolls all over the country.

Therefore, this resolution is presented in acknowledgment of the 53rd anniversary of the signing of the VRA and with the desire to encourage our State and Federal officials to pass legislation that protects our citizens' personal information and protects the right of all eligible citizens to vote for their representatives.

Sincerely,
Alderman Aaron Ammons
Ward 3

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-08-037R

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING OUR SUPPORT FOR
THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND ITS AMENDMENTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana (the "City") is an Illinois home rule unit of local government pursuant to Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and the statutes of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States that prohibits racial discrimination in voting.

WHEREAS, 53 years ago today, August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, signed the Voting Rights Act into law; and

WHEREAS, Congress later amended the Act five times to expand its protections; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was designed to enforce the voting rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Act secured the right to vote for racial minorities throughout the country, especially in the South; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended from time to time by Congress, is considered to be the most effective piece of federal civil rights legislation ever enacted in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that it is appropriate and beneficial for the City to respect the right for all eligible citizens to vote; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is the most fundamental component of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the City supports all reasonable and lawful efforts to protect citizens' rights to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1:

The City of Urbana supports all lawful and reasonable efforts to cause the the Illinois General Assembly to pass and the Governor of the State of Illinois to sign into law legislation that protects and guarantees to every citizen of the State of Illinois the right and opportunity to vote.

Section 2:

The City of Urbana supports all lawful and reasonable efforts to cause the Illinois General Assembly to pass and the Governor of the State of Illinois to sign into law legislation that protects the personal information of the voters of Champaign County

Section 3:

Upon adoption of this Resolution, the City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to disseminate this resolution to Illinois Representative Carol Ammons and Illinois Senator Scott Bennett.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this ____ day of _____, 2018

AYES

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

Charles A. Smyth, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this __ day of ____, 2018.

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor