

RESOLUTION NO. 26847

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHATTAÑOOGA CITY COUNCIL TO REQUEST THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL HAMILTON COUNTY DELEGATION TO OFFER AND SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC CHAPTER 2011-323 IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND ENSURE THE RIGHTS OF OUR CITIZENS TO VOTE.

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WHEREAS, the Chattanooga City Council firmly believes all of our citizens who are qualified to vote should be able to do so without hindrance or impediment; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative the State of Tennessee creates, implements, and enforces reasonable laws and safeguards to protect voter rights as well as ensure that those who do vote are qualified and legally able to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly recently passed Senate Bill 0016/HB0007, now Public Chapter 2011-323, which requires all qualified Tennessee voters to produce at the time of voting a valid state or federal government issued identification card; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga City Council appreciates this measure's efforts to ensure ethical voting practices, but we hereby wish to express our concern that this new law as written could negatively affect citizenship voting rights; and

WHEREAS, numerous people in our state, especially our elderly citizens, do not have a valid Tennessee driver's license, government issued identification card, or their photo on their license; and

WHEREAS, we, the Chattanooga City Council, request the members of the local Hamilton County Delegation to offer and support an amendment to Public Chapter 2011-323 to

be considered in the Spring 2012 legislative session to amend the legislation to allow city, county, and state identification cards or Election Commission identification cards to be valid sources of photo identification;

WHEREAS, as the ruling body of the City of Chattanooga, it is the Council's intention to protect the rights of our citizens, including the most cherished right of all, the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, it is our goal that this amendment be made so that this right can be insured and that those who are legally able to vote may do so without hindrance or impediment; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, That the Chattanooga City Council requests the members of the local Hamilton County Delegation to offer and support an amendment to Public Chapter 2011-323 to amend this act to allow city, county, and state identification cards or Election Commission identification cards to be valid sources of photo identification for voting purposes in order to protect and ensure the rights of our citizens to vote.

ADOPTED: September 27, 2011.

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