

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

WHEREAS, a proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the November 6, 2018 ballot asking, “Should a county, city, or town be authorized to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to the recurrent flooding, if flooding resiliency improvements have been made on the property?”

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Democratic Committee believes that deliberating and taking a position on ballot initiatives will assist in educating its membership and the general public on important civic matters and will improve the efficiency of voting on election day.

WHEREAS, The Constitution of Virginia provides that all property shall be taxed but sets out categories of property that can be fully or partially exempted from taxation.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Virginia presently allows localities to provide a partial exemption from taxation for real estate where an owner has made substantial improvements to the existing structures to address factors such as age, conservation efforts or rehabilitation, but has not included improvements made to address recurrent flooding.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is a “Dillon Rule” jurisdiction, meaning that local governments can only pass ordinances in areas where they have been granted clear authority by the state.

WHEREAS, passage of this amendment would not automatically create the tax exemption at issue, but would be a step towards empowering local jurisdictions, including Alexandria to adopt such a measure.

WHEREAS, generally speaking empowering local government to enact measures that are truly local in nature and impact is consistent with good government.

WHEREAS, flooding is a common risk in the City of Alexandria in that 20% of the City is mapped as a floodplain, meaning on average that it would be flood once every 100 years or that there is a 1% chance of the area being flooded on any given year.

WHEREAS, Alexandria is prone to flooding from heavy rainfall from storms that create overbank flooding from the Potomac River and its tributaries such as Backlick Run, Cameron Run, Four Mile Run, Holmes Run, Hoof’s Run, Taylor Run, Timberbranch Run, Strawberry Run and Lucky Run.

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria encourages residents to consider permanent changes to protect buildings from flood damage by doing such things as building floodwalls and elevating or relocating electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, washers and dryers.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Alexandria Democratic Committee encourages its membership to vote yes on Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1 on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

Background and Related Links:

- <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/election-law/proposed-constitutional-amendment-2018/index.html>
- <https://www.alexandriava.gov/FloodMap>