

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation on March
3 13, 2020, certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all
4 counties in the state of Texas; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has
6 advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America call upon
9 Americans to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

10 **WHEREAS**, twenty-two states allow voting-by-mail for all their voters and
11 three states conduct their entire elections by mail; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Texas law currently restricts voting-by-mail to seniors, voters
13 with disabilities, and voters who are out of the state during an election; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Section 82.002 of the Texas Election Code states that a
15 “qualified voter is eligible for early voting by mail if the voter has a sickness or
16 physical condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on
17 election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the
18 voter's health”; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic has created a situation
20 in which regular polling location practices in Texas would not fall along health and
21 safety guidelines laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the League of Women Voters Texas and other civic groups have
23 broad adoption of vote-by-mail provisions in upcoming elections; and

24 **WHEREAS**, holding all-mail elections is the only option that guarantees
25 Texans' right to vote while also protecting public health; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the City is committed to the safety, health, and welfare of all of
27 its residents; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

28 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

29 City Council implores the Texas Governor and the Texas Secretary of State
30 to protect the voting rights of all Texas voters and to protect the public health of all
31 Texans by permitting voting-by-mail for all voters eligible to vote in Texas elections
32 during this crisis; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

34 City Council directs the City Manager to send a copy of this Resolution to the
35 Travis, Williamson, and Hays County delegation of the Texas House and Senate, the
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37 Texas Governor, the Texas Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of
38 Representatives, and the Texas Secretary of State.

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40 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____

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Jannette S. Goodall

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City Clerk

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