

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Executive Committee

8/27/2020

RESOLUTION 2020.4

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to Springfield mayoral vacancy

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the office of Mayor of Springfield was created when the incumbent mayor resigned her position on August 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, according to Section 20 of the City Charter, the vacancy in the office of mayor will be filled by appointment voted on by the Springfield City Council until a special election is held during the next general election, which occurs in November 2022; and

WHEREAS, four mayoral vacancies were filled by council appointment over the previous 40 years, resulting in three appointed mayors who were current city councilors at the time of their appointment and one appointed mayor who was a former councilor; and

WHEREAS, we believe that elected offices are best filled through elections but that current circumstances will result in the next mayor of Springfield being appointed by a council vote; and

WHEREAS, the current political climate has resulted in unprecedented interest in public involvement in government—both nationally and locally; and

WHEREAS, an open and transparent process for filling the mayoral vacancy would both increase legitimacy for the appointed mayor and increase public trust in the appointment process and thereby in the City of Springfield; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners utilized an open and transparent process to appoint a new East Lane County Commissioner in 2017.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To encourage the Springfield City Council to conduct an open, public, and transparent process to fill the vacancy in the office of Mayor of Springfield.

SECTION 2: To encourage the Springfield City Council to not limit consideration only to current councilors by accepting applications from any person qualified to serve as mayor, interview as many serious candidates as practical, and provide an opportunity for public comment.

SECTION 3: To encourage the Springfield City Council to appoint a diverse and independent committee to study the office of mayor, interview potential candidates who apply to serve as mayor, and make a recommendation the Council regarding the mayoral appointment.

SECTION 4: To send this Resolution to the Springfield City Council and all elected officials who represent Springfield.