

# Village Council Election Guidelines

Election Date: Monday, May 10, 2021

## General Provisions

Election of the Friendship Heights Village Council shall be conducted under the guidance of the appropriate provisions of Article 33 of the Maryland Code, Section 66-4 of the Montgomery County Code, and these By-Laws.

## Notice of Election

Notice of the election specifying time, requirements, and the procedures for nomination and voting shall be posted on the Hubert H. Humphrey Friendship Park Bulletin Board at least sixty days prior to the election.

## Nomination: Filing Deadline Friday, April 2

Nomination shall be by petition, signed by at least ten registered and qualified voters of the Village, and shall be filed at the office of the Council at least five weeks prior to the election (**by 5 p.m., Friday, April 2, 2021**). Such petition shall include the signature of the candidate indicating willingness to run. Nomination petitions can be downloaded from the Village website, [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov).

Candidates shall be registered and qualified voters and reside in the Village at the time of the nomination and the election. Any candidate may withdraw his/her petition up to twenty-four hours before the start of the election.

## Qualifications for Voting

Any person residing in the Village whose name appears on a list of registered and qualified voters, furnished by the Board of Elections of Montgomery County, shall be eligible to vote.

## Voting by Mail

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the election will be

conducted by mail via absentee ballot.

Any qualified voter shall be entitled to vote as an absentee voter. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the Village Center or online at [www.friendshipheightsmd.gov](http://www.friendshipheightsmd.gov) (click on "Village Council Election Information" link on the home page). Upon receipt of the application, the League of Women Voters will mail or deliver an absentee ballot to the voter. An application must be received by **Monday, April 26, 2021**. (If you are unable to meet this deadline, call the League of Women Voters representative listed on the absentee ballot application.)

No candidate for Council membership shall serve as a duly authorized agent for the purpose of submitting a completed absentee ballot application. A qualified voter shall return an absentee ballot by mail, by delivery in person, or by requesting that an election judge or clerk be dispatched to obtain the absentee ballot on the day of the election. The ballot shall be returned to the Council office or other previously designated location. An absentee ballot received after the time for closing of the polls shall not be counted. If conditions improve and it is deemed safe enough to conduct an in-person election, a decision will be made by mid-April.

## Election Officials

The election will be run by the League of Women Voters. League representatives will receive and process absentee ballot applications and will mail absentee ballots to voters.

## Counting of Ballots

Counting shall be conducted

by the League of Women Voters. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, there will be no citizen judges or monitors allowed while the ballots are counted.

## Certifying and Reporting of Ballots

The incumbent Mayor shall notify the Montgomery County Council of the election returns, certified by the election judges. Such letter shall be sent by registered mail the day following the election. A copy of this letter shall be retained in the permanent files of the Village.

## Disclosure

All candidates for the Friendship Heights Village Council must indicate agreement with the following requirements: Each candidate for election to the Council must submit two written financial reports to the Village Office—a preliminary report on the Monday preceding election day (**May 3**) and a final report by 5 p.m. on the Friday after election day (**May 14**).

Each report must include the following: 1) a list of all contributors and the amount(s) of their contributions made to the candidate; 2) an itemized list of expenditures made by the candidate on his/her own behalf; 3) a list of all contributors and the amount(s) of their contributions made to another party on behalf of the candidate; and 4) an itemized list of expenditures made by another party on behalf of the candidate.

The data from these reports shall be compiled and posted on the Village bulletin board as soon after receipt as possible. Failure to comply shall disqualify the candidate from assuming office.