

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF
LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE, OPPOSING BLOUNT COUNTY'S
PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPERIMENTAL PILOT PROGRAM
AUTHORIZED BY TCA 2-3-301 ET SEQ ALLOWING THE ELIMINATION OF
LOCAL VOTING PRECINCTS IN FAVOR OF REGIONAL VOTING CENTERS.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 01

SPONSOR: MAYOR BICKERS

DATE PASSED: JANUARY 12, 2021 (5 – 0)

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE
TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, TENNESSEE, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, TCA 2-3-301 et seq establishes an experimental pilot program authorizing the use
of “convenient voting centers” instead of traditional local community precincts;

WHEREAS, the number of registered voters allowed per precinct is currently capped by TCA 2-
3-103 at a maximum of 6,000 registered voters;

WHEREAS, the maximum number of registered voters under the experimental “convenient
voting centers” pilot program is enlarged to 10,000 registered voters per site;

WHEREAS, the proposal for participation in the pilot project is to consolidate the 31 current
precincts in local communities in Blount County into 10 “convenient voting centers”
located in areas with existing significant broadband bandwidth, limiting the potential
locations of the voting centers;

WHEREAS, only four counties were authorized under the current statute to participate in the
pilot project during the 2020 elections and a report of the impact on voting, positive and
negative, has not yet been prepared and disseminated for public discussion given the
recency of the November elections;

WHEREAS, the Blount County Election Commission is requesting the Blount County
Commission to adopt a resolution requesting the Blount County legislative delegation to
sponsor and/or support legislation adding Blount County to the four existing counties
authorized under the experimental pilot program;

WHEREAS, given that the potential negative impacts of the experimental program are yet to be
determined, TCA 2-3-301(b) requires a super majority of four of the five members of a
county election commission to not only agree to participate in the pilot program but “*shall
also be required to establish the number and locations*” of the proposed “convenient
voting centers,” effectively identifying the local precincts to be closed, and such plan has

not been made public;

WHEREAS, reducing the number of voting locations from 31 to 10 for the same number of voters will likely result in longer lines, longer waits, greater voter frustration, lower voter participation and potentially increased demand for additional remote voting options;

WHEREAS, The Town of Louisville, which reimburses the election commission for the costs of its municipal elections and whose input has not previously been sought on this issue, has concluded that the proposed voting centers will not result in any greater convenience for its citizens and will not be in the best interest of either the Town or its citizens;

WHEREAS, election days can be significant community events in smaller communities, particularly in municipal elections, where people gather and visit with candidates and each other as they select their community leaders, and such community spirit should be enhanced, not frustrated, as we work to recover from the isolation brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, given the current situation in the United States, much related to issues over elections and voting, the Blount County Commission and the Blount County Election Commission should be exploring ways to increase and enhance in-person voting, such as additional early voting locations, instead of significantly reducing locations for in-person voting; and

WHEREAS, given the current state of affairs in this country, this is not an appropriate time to significantly change how and where voting occurs by abandoning local precincts in favor of supposed “convenient voting centers,” and any such change must only occur with adequate public notice and the utmost transparency.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

1. The Town of Louisville encourages the Blount County Commission to reject the current request to participate in the experimental pilot program authorizing “convenient voting centers” under TCA 2-3-301 et seq;
2. Encourages the Blount County Commission to delay consideration of the adoption of “convenient voting centers” until the following, at a minimum, has occurred:
 - (A) A study of the efficacy of the Pilot Program under 2-3-301 et seq has been conducted and disseminated for public discussion;
 - (B) The Blount County Election Commission has disclosed its plan for the location of the proposed 10 voting centers; and
 - (C) The impact on Blount County’s municipalities and their elections has been considered.

3. To insure adequate public notice and transparency, The Town of Louisville requests that members of the Blount County legislative delegation neither sponsor nor support any legislation adding Blount County to the list of counties participating in the experimental pilot program authorizing the use of “convenient voting centers” until the public has had an opportunity to be adequately notified of the Blount County Election Commission’s proposal and has been provided an opportunity to be heard on a matter as important as how elections are conducted in this county. Our legislative delegation is also asked to defer until a consensus can be reached of Blount County and local municipalities on the issue.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage, the public welfare requiring it.



Mayor



Town Recorder/Ass't Recorder