

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative:

A Resolution Setting the Filing Fee and Filing Period for the November Special Election to Fill the Vacancy on the Town Council

This item is to allow the Town Council to set the filing fee and filing period for the November special election to fill the vacancy on the Town Council that was created upon Mayor Foushee assuming the office of Mayor.

Department: Town Clerk

What are the racial and equity impacts?

Setting a low filing fee (\$10) and filing period early reduces the impact of equity. Setting the filing period five months in advance gives people who might be interested in running for office the time to explore options for doing so.

Who is or will experience community burden?

Marginalized communities facing historical disparities in political participation, like people of color, low-income residents, or non-English speakers, may have limited access to resources that allow them to run for an elected office.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

Setting the fee low and early benefit all residents, including those from marginalized communities. Everyone has ample time to strategize on how to go through the process of competing in an election.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Groups facing historical discrimination or neglect from local government may already feel excluded from running for office. Individuals unfamiliar with navigating government processes or public participation might feel intimidated or unsure how to engage in the election process, leading to lower participation rates.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Groups who are already marginalized or lack access to resources to run in an election could be excluded from the democratic process and further affect their faith in our system of government.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

The town staff will publish the filing fee and filing period through multiple channels to ensure widespread understanding.