



Ward 5 Democrats

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January 21, 2020

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Fort Lincoln Civic Association, Inc. (FLCA)
P.O. Box 41025
Washington, DC 20018

Re: Voting Machines in the Senior Buildings of Ft. Lincoln

Dear FLCA:

The Ward Five Democrats have reviewed your request and have voted to support placing voting machines in the Senior Buildings of the Fort Lincoln Community. We stand in firm support and solidarity with ANC 5C and the Fort Lincoln Civic Association, Inc. on this critical topic.

It is agreed that placing voting machines in the Senior Buildings of Fort Lincoln will be of great benefit to the entire community. Fort Lincoln is an urban neighborhood (based on population density) located in Ward Five of Washington, D.C. This historic community was founded in 1967, and has been the home to the largest population of seniors living in apartments in our great city. The Fort Lincoln neighborhood has a greater proportion of government workers living in it than 99.7% of the neighborhoods in America, according to NeighborhoodScout's exclusive analysis. Thus, this is a unique neighborhood feature, and one that shapes its character. Moreover, seniors are the most viable and stable voting bloc in every election, but many times their concerns and issues are not addressed. The Fort Lincoln Community has a population of over 3,523 residents and seniors represent nearly half of population at a staggering 43%. Additionally, one of the most interesting things about the Fort Lincoln neighborhood is that it has a greater concentration of residents who live alone than most all neighborhoods in America. With 60.5% of the households here made up of people living alone, NeighborhoodScout's research that this is a larger proportion of people living alone than in 99.3% of homes in America. Thus, there is a great justification and need for voting machines in this community.

Fort Lincoln is a fixture in Ward Five and throughout all of the District of Columbia, because of the massive representation by seniors who are active and engaged in our local political process. Fort Lincoln is a self-contained community that operates as a town within a town, because it has two Single Member Districts and the Fort Lincoln Civic Association where meetings are always well-attended. There are over 3,209 registered voters in Precinct 139 (Theodore Haggan Culture Center), and that number is only growing with time. It is imperative to note that Precinct 139 is the most unique in the city, because if you do not live in Precinct 139, then you cannot vote there.

Even more, Precinct 139 is a challenge for seniors to vote, because seniors cannot walk up the hill for various medical and physical reasons. Additionally, seniors cannot be dropped off in front, because it violates the 500 ft. rule on Election Day.

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Therefore, the benefit and advantage of having voting machines in the Senior Buildings is apparent for reasons stated above. There will be an increase in voter participation due to increased access to voting machines for seniors. In addition, this would be a pilot project that could lay the foundation for increased voter participation across the District.

In conclusion, the Ward Five Democrats stand firmly with ANC 5C and FLCA in the fight to obtain voting machines in the Fort Lincoln Community for our seniors. The Democratic Party in the District of Columbia and all throughout the nation owes so much to our seniors. Therefore, I urge all stakeholders to support this critical initiative that will strengthen our democracy.

Best Regards,

Gordon-Andrew Lee Fletcher, Esq.

Gordon-Andrew Lee Fletcher, Esq.

Ward Five Democrats, Chairman

Bob King

Bob King

Ward Five Democrats, Seniors' Chair