**MAPLEWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING CANDIDATES IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS.**

The Maplewood Democratic Committee, after meeting and voting on the matters here described, hereby requests that the Essex County New Jersey Democratic Party Chairman, organize a convention of the Essex County Democratic Committee in this year and in subsequent years at which members of the Committee will vote by secret ballot to endorse candidates for all elected offices to be filled for the year in question.

Below are some important reasons which the Maplewood Democratic Committee considered in voting to make the request set forth above:

1. Presently, the practice is for the Essex County Democratic Party Chair to decide who will be the endorsed primary election candidates, upon consultation with and then a vote by the Executive Committee of the Essex County Democratic Committee. This practice is at odds with the practice in a number of other New Jersey counties where the decision is made by secret ballot vote of all members of the various County Committees.
2. Presently, the endorsed candidates in Essex County are placed on the “county line” in primary elections, a position which provides those candidates with a significant advantage over their opponents.
3. The endorsement of the County Committee carries import, and therefore should be reflective of the collective will of a wide and representative range of views. To do so, there is a need both for a vote by individual members of the Committee and for that vote, like the votes in the voting booth, to be made in secret.
4. The members of the Essex County Democratic Committee represent all of the election districts in the County, and are elected by the voters in those districts. As a result, they represent the various viewpoints of Essex County voters, providing more input and broader support for endorsed candidates than solely that of the Essex County Democratic Chair. Thus, the endorsement of primary candidates should be entirely the result of a secret ballot vote by the members of the County Committee.

Vote certified as accurate on this 11 day of March, 2024:

Ian Grodman

Chair, Maplewood Democratic Committee

Rebecca Scheer

Vice Chair, Maplewood Democratic Committee