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Resolution Relating to

RESOLUTION
 Sponsor(s) Councilors Hartnett, Wright
 Introduced: 09/26/11
 Referred to: _____
 Action: _____
 Date: _____
 Signed by Mayor: _____

PARTY DESIGNATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Eleven.....
 Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, under Vermont law (17 V.S.A. 2681a. local election ballots) "No political party or other designation shall be listed unless the municipal charter provides for such listing, the town has voted at an earlier election to provide such a listing or, in the absence of previous consideration of the question by the town, the legislative body decides to permit listing" and

WHEREAS, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns was unable to find any municipal charters that have authorized the listing of party designation on local election ballots; and

WHEREAS, the only three towns that did reference political party designations (Barre, Brattleboro and Windsor) expressly prohibited them; and

WHEREAS, Burlington is one of the only municipalities (and perhaps the only one) that allows party designation in Vermont with all of Burlington's neighboring communities not allowing party designation; and

WHEREAS, in fact at least one municipality, the town of St Albans, which previously did allow party designation, changed it's charter in the 1990's to disallow the listing of parties; and

WHEREAS, in Burlington, School Board elections were held with party designation until the 1990's when voters approved a charter change which removed party designation for School board elections; and

35 **Resolution Relating to** PARTY DESIGNATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

36 WHEREAS, there is a mix of opinions on the topic with one strong opinion being that
37 party politics plays too large a role in local elections in Burlington in both Mayoral and City
38 Council contests;

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Change Committee is
40 instructed to consider drafting a charter change for the town meeting day ballot in March, 2012
41 that would have Burlington join its neighbors and practically every other municipality in
42 Vermont in prohibiting party designations for both Mayor and City Council contests; and

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Charter Change Committee is asked to report
44 back to the Council no later than the first meeting in December.

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