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Albany County Legislature Approves Relocating Board of Elections to Former DMV Site on South Pearl Street

Albany, NY – The Albany County Legislature on Monday voted 28-10 in support of relocating the Board of Elections to the former Department of Motor Vehicles site at 260 South Pearl St., Albany.

“Moving the Board of Elections facility is an opportunity for Albany County to provide residents access to a necessary resource in a centralized location while saving taxpayer money and creating a potential driver for economic development in the neighborhood,” Chairman Andrew Joyce said.

The Board of Elections is currently located at 32 N. Russell Road in a building that costs the County approximately \$375,334 in rent, utilities and other costs. The move to the county-owned building on South Pearl Street is estimated to provide a savings of \$100,000 in 2019 and 2 to 3 times that in 2020 and beyond.

According to a preliminary space analysis by engineering firm, CT Male Associates, the former DMV site is slightly smaller than the current site on Russell Road but provides more than enough space for the BOE to conduct its operations. The location is also equipped with a sprinkler system and a handicap accessible toilet, which the current BOE site does not.

“Based upon a program analysis of each space, while there is a modest difference in the overall footprint between the two facilities, it is our opinion the DMV building, with some minor alterations, will readily accommodate the BOE program, and in some respects improve conditions which they currently face in their present facility,” CT Male states.

Many legislators in support of the resolution cited the benefits the Board of Election move would have on the community.

“We welcome the County Board of Elections in my district,” District 1 Legislator Lucille McKnight said. “People are excited about the fact that they are going to have someplace in close proximity where they can go and register to vote. I think what we are doing is a very smart thing.”

Legislative Black Caucus Chairman William Clay stated “The Legislative Black Caucus supports the move 100 percent and I support this even though my district is on the other side of town. It just makes economic sense.”

“This makes a lot of sense because it’s right in downtown Albany,” District 6 Legislator Samuel Fein said. “This is a real opportunity to increase accessibility. This is a real opportunity to increase voter turnout which is beneficial to everyone and ultimately good for democracy.”