

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: 2020-237

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President Wilson

Date of Introduction: April 28, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: April 29, 2020

Type of Action: Resolution providing for a Special Election

Bill Summary: This bill declares the vacancy in the District 4 seat of the City Council as the result of the resignation of Council President Wilson, effective the earlier of either the date he would take office as Clerk of Courts, if elected, or the date his District 4 successor would take office. This resolution calls for a Special Election for the District 4 seat and provides terms for the qualifying period. The Special Election of the District 4 seat will occur in conjunction with the State wide, multi-county, County and District offices primary election set for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 and general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The one cycle emergency is requested to accommodate the timeframe needed for a qualifying period, to establish the candidates to be included on the printed August ballot, and time for the Duval County Supervisor of Elections to properly assess petitions and meet the ballot printing deadline.

Background Information: According to Section 99.012(3)(d), *Florida Statutes*, to run for the Duval County Clerk of Courts position Council President Wilson must resign from his current seat on council, as 'no officer may qualify as a candidate for another state, district, county, or municipal public office if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other without resigning from the office he or she presently holds'. Section 5.06 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville provides that upon a vacancy occurring under these circumstances, a Special Election may be called by resolution of the Council.

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes in the August 18, 2020 Special Election, then the two candidates with the highest vote totals in the August 18, 2020 Special Election will participate in a Special Election to be held in conjunction with the General Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. In the event more than one candidate receives the second highest vote total, then each such candidates' name, as well as the name of the candidate with the highest vote total, shall be on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 Special Election.

The qualifying period for candidates to be voted upon in the Special Election begins at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020, and closes at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2020. For those candidates seeking to qualify for this Special Election for the District 4 City Council seat via the voter petition process, the candidate qualifying by petition deadline is 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020.

Policy Impact Area: Special Election for City Council vacancy

Fiscal Impact: Undetermined administrative costs for the Duval Supervisor of Elections

Analyst: Hampsey