

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council Member  
2 Diamond and amended by the Rules Committee:

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4  
5 **ORDINANCE 2026-137-E**

6 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE COUNCIL RULES;  
7 AMENDING COUNCIL RULES 2.202 (ATTENDANCE;  
8 VOTING) AND 2.210 (RULES IN COMMITTEE), PART 2  
9 (COMMITTEE PROCEDURE), CHAPTER 2 (COMMITTEES),  
10 *COUNCIL RULES*, TO ADDRESS COUNCIL MEMBER  
11 ATTENDANCE AND AUTHORIZED ABSENCES FOR STANDING,  
12 SPECIAL AND SELECT COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE  
13 REQUIRED QUORUM FOR COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES;  
14 AMENDING COUNCIL RULE 4.106 (QUORUM), PART 1  
15 (MEETINGS; QUORUM), CHAPTER 4 (PROCEDURES),  
16 *COUNCIL RULES*, TO ADDRESS COUNCIL MEMBER  
17 ATTENDANCE AND AUTHORIZED ABSENCES FOR COUNCIL  
18 MEETINGS; ESTABLISHING A PROSPECTIVE DATE OF  
19 JULY 1, 2026, FOR THE COUNCIL RULE AMENDMENTS  
20 PROVIDED HEREIN TO BECOME EFFECTIVE; PROVIDING  
21 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the City Council serves as the legislative body of the  
24 City of Jacksonville and is responsible for making policy decisions  
25 that affect and govern the way of life in the City of Jacksonville  
26 and Duval County; and

27 **WHEREAS**, each Council Member is duly elected by the constituents  
28 within their respective Council Districts or At-Large areas to  
29 represent the unique needs and challenges affecting those  
30 communities; and

31 **WHEREAS**, tantamount to a Council Member's fulfillment of his or

1 her responsibility to the electorate is ensuring their consistent and  
2 meaningful presence and participation in the City's legislative  
3 process; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the times and dates for Council meetings and Council  
5 standing Committee meetings are known well in advance, allowing  
6 Council Members more than sufficient opportunity to arrange their  
7 schedules to ensure their presence at these meetings; and

8 **WHEREAS**, when multiple Council Members are absent from a City  
9 Council or Council Committee meeting, this can become disruptive to  
10 the legislative process, at times making it a challenge for those  
11 present to ensure the business of the Council is efficiently and  
12 thoroughly carried out; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Council therefore desires to amend the Council  
14 Rules to address absences and attendance at City Council and Council  
15 standing Committee meetings and the quorum requirement for Council  
16 standing Committee meetings; now therefore

17 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

18 **Section 1. Amending Council Rules 2.202 (Attendance;**  
19 **Voting) and 2.210 (Rules in Committee), Part 2 (Committee Procedure),**  
20 **Chapter 2 (Committees), Council Rules.** Council Rules 2.202  
21 (Attendance; Voting) and 2.210 (Rules in Committee), Part 2 (Committee  
22 Procedure), Chapter 2 (Committees), *Council Rules*, are hereby amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 **CHAPTER 2. COMMITTEES**

25 \* \* \*

26 **PART 2. COMMITTEE PROCEDURE**

27 \* \* \*

28 **RULE 2.202 ATTENDANCE; VOTING**

29 (a) Attendance. Each Council Member shall attend every regular  
30 or special meeting of each standing, special or select committee to  
31 which he/she is appointed, unless excused by the committee chair

1 following the submission of a written request from the Council Member.  
 2 No more than one Council Member may be excused from a regular meeting  
 3 of a standing committee with the exception that additional absences  
 4 may be authorized for a medical reason for either the Council Member  
 5 or a relative of the Council Member. For the purposes of this Rule,  
 6 a "relative" shall be as defined in Section 112.3143, Florida  
 7 Statutes. In addition, any ~~Any~~ member who is ordered into military  
 8 service pursuant to state or federal law, and who provides notice to  
 9 the Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative Services upon  
 10 receiving such order, shall be excused from all meetings during the  
 11 period of such military service and shall not be required to provide  
 12 any additional notice of absence. Failure to attend three ~~consecutive~~  
 13 regular meetings of a standing committee, ~~or three consecutive~~  
 14 meetings of a special or select committee without the approval of the  
 15 committee chair during a given Council year shall ~~excuse may, upon~~  
 16 ~~recommendation by the chair to the President,~~ constitute automatic  
 17 withdrawal from the committee and create a vacancy, ~~which shall be~~  
 18 filled by appointment by the President. Every Council Member may  
 19 attend any meeting of any committee of which he/she is not a member  
 20 and there participate in interviewing of witnesses and offer his/her  
 21 comments and observations, but he/she may not vote on any question,  
 22 except the President ~~or Vice President (when acting in an ex officio~~  
 23 capacity) ~~as provided in Rule 2.211. At the outset of each Council~~  
 24 year, each committee chair shall announce how he/she intends to  
 25 address absences and excusals in accordance herewith.

26 \* \* \*

27 **RULE 2.210 RULES IN COMMITTEE**

28 (a) All committees, and subcommittees, thereof, shall follow the  
 29 following procedural rules:

30 (1) A quorum of a standing committee shall be five members  
 31 and a quorum of a special or select committee or subcommittee of any

1 standing, special or select committee shall be a majority of its  
2 members, except as modified by Rule 2.211; ~~and except that following~~  
3 2.211, with the exception that in the event there are two unexcused  
4 absences for a standing committee meeting, the quorum shall be four  
5 members for that meeting. Following the transaction of official  
6 business, a committee or subcommittee may remain in session without  
7 a quorum to receive or exchange additional comments from the public.

8 \* \* \*

9 **Section 2. Amending Council Rule 4.106 (Quorum), Part 1**  
10 **(Meetings; Quorum), Chapter 4 (Procedures), Council Rules.** Council  
11 Rule 4.106 (Quorum), Part 1 (Meetings; Quorum), Chapter 4  
12 (Procedures), *Council Rules*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 **CHAPTER 4. PROCEDURES**

14 **PART 1. MEETINGS; QUORUM**

15 \* \* \*

16 **RULE 4.106 QUORUM; ABSENCES**

17 \* \* \*

18 (e) Upon receiving a written excusal request from the Council  
19 Member, the Council President is limited to allowing no more than two  
20 excused absences for any regular meeting of the Council, with the  
21 exception that additional absences may be authorized for a medical  
22 reason for either the Council Member or a relative of the Council  
23 Member or when a Council Member is ordered into military service  
24 pursuant to state or federal law and has provided notice to the  
25 Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative Services upon receiving  
26 such order. Any unexcused absences will be announced for the record  
27 at the beginning of each Council meeting. At the outset of each  
28 Council year, the Council President shall announce how he/she intends  
29 to address absences and excusals in accordance herewith. For the  
30 purposes of this Rule, a "relative" shall be as defined in Section  
31 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

1           **Section 3.           Establishing a Prospective Date of July 1, 2026,**  
2 **for the Council Rule Amendments Contained in this Ordinance to Become**  
3 **Effective.** The amendments to the Council Rules contained in this  
4 Ordinance shall not become effective until July 1, 2026.

5           **Section 4.           Effective Date.** The enactment of this Ordinance  
6 is deemed to constitute an internal affair of the City Council  
7 pursuant to Section 6.05(e) of the City Charter and shall become  
8 effective upon signature by the Council President and Council  
9 Secretary.

10  
11 Form Approved:

12  
13 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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