

Introduced by Council Member Carrico and amended by the Neighborhoods,
Community Services, Public Health and Safety Committee:

ORDINANCE 2025-765-E

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE TIMING FOR
CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS AND THE
QUALIFYING FOR SUCH ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS
350.102 (CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS) AND
350.106 (QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES), PART 1
(GENERAL PROVISIONS), CHAPTER 350 (ELECTIONS,
ELECTION REGULATIONS, AND CAMPAIGNING),
ORDINANCE CODE, TO MODIFY THE TIMING FOR THE
FIRST AND GENERAL CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
ELECTIONS AND THE QUALIFYING FOR THE FIRST AND
GENERAL CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS;
PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 350.102(a), *Ordinance Code*, provides that a
first Consolidated Government election (the "First Election") shall
be held on the twelfth Tuesday of the year in which general
Consolidated Government elections are to be held; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 350.102(a), *Ordinance Code*,
the next First Election is to be held on March 23, 2027; and

WHEREAS, for the next First Election, the Supervisor of
Elections has three important deadlines mandated under Florida's
Election Code which are tied to and fall after election day: (1) the
ten-day overseas vote-by-mail deadline (April 2, 2027); (2) the
official returns deadline (April 5, 2027); and (3) the deadline to
complete the voting system audit (April 12, 2027); and

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 350.102(b), *Ordinance Code*, provides that a
2 general Consolidated Government election (the "Second Election")
3 shall be held on the eighth Tuesday after the First Election; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 350.102(b), *Ordinance Code*,
5 the next Second Election is to be held on May 18, 2027; and

6 **WHEREAS**, for the next Second Election, the Supervisor of
7 Elections has three important deadlines mandated under Florida's
8 Election Code which are tied to and come before election day: (1) the
9 deadline to mail the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting
10 Act (UOCAVA) absentee ballots (April 3, 2027); (2) the beginning of
11 in-office vote-by-mail (April 5, 2027); and (3) the domestic vote-
12 by-mail drop (April 12, 2027); and

13 **WHEREAS**, due to staffing, resources and time restraints, the
14 Supervisor of Elections will be unable to have the next Second
15 Election ballot prepared by the April 3, 2027, deadline to mail UOCAVA
16 absentee ballots because the next First Election official returns
17 will not be certified until the April 5, 2027, deadline; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in addition, the Supervisor of Elections will be unable
19 to fulfill his statutory obligations tied to the next First and Second
20 Elections as currently scheduled because of the six overlapping
21 deadlines between April 2, 2027 and April 12, 2027; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Section 350.106, *Ordinance Code*, currently provides
23 that candidates for offices to be filled by the First Election shall
24 qualify by following those procedures for candidate qualification
25 specified in Chapter 99, *Florida Statutes*; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Ordinance is to amend Sections
27 350.102 and 350.106, *Ordinance Code*, to address the overlapping
28 election deadlines for all future First and Second Elections and to
29 ensure that the qualifying period remains the same as it would have
30 been absent a revised election schedule; therefore

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

1 **Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals.** The above recitals
2 are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

3 **Section 2. Amending Sections 350.102 (Consolidated**
4 **Government elections) and 350.106 (Qualification of Candidates), Part**
5 **1 (General Provisions), Chapter 350 (Elections, Election Regulations,**
6 **And Campaigning), Ordinance Code.** Sections 350.102 (Consolidated
7 Government elections) and 350.106 (Qualification of Candidates), Part
8 1 (General Provisions), Chapter 350 (Elections, Election Regulations,
9 and Campaigning), *Ordinance Code* are hereby amended as follows:

10 **Chapter 350 - ELECTIONS, ELECTION REGULATIONS, AND CAMPAIGNING**

11 **PART 1. - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

12 * * *

13 **Sec. 350.102. - Consolidated Government elections.**

14 (a) *First election.* A first Consolidated Government election
15 shall be held on the tenth ~~twelfth~~ Tuesday of the year in
16 which general Consolidated Government elections are to be
17 held. Each candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast
18 in each contest in a first Consolidated Government election
19 shall be declared elected for such office. A general
20 Consolidated Government election shall be held as provided in
21 subsection (b) of this Section in all contests in which a
22 candidate does not receive a majority. The candidates in the
23 general election shall be the two candidates with the highest
24 vote totals in the first election. In the event more than one
25 candidate received the second highest vote total then each
26 such candidates' name, as well as the name of the candidate
27 with the highest vote total, shall be on the ballot.

28 (b) *General election.* A general Consolidated Government election
29 shall be held on the tenth ~~eighth~~ Tuesday after the first
30 Consolidated Government election in each year in which
31 general Consolidated Government elections are to be held,

1 where a candidate is not elected in the first Consolidated
2 Government election. The candidate who receives the highest
3 number of votes cast for the office shall be declared
4 nominated. In case two or more persons receive an equal and
5 highest number of votes for the same office, such persons
6 shall draw lots to determine who shall be elected to office.

7 * * *

8 **Sec. 350.106. - Qualification of Candidates.**

9 Candidates for offices to be filled by election pursuant to this
10 Chapter shall qualify for such election by following those procedures
11 for candidate qualification specified in Chapter 99, Florida
12 Statutes, except the first day for qualifying as defined in Section
13 99.061(2), Florida Statutes, shall be the fifty seventh day prior to
14 the first election, but not later than noon of the fifty third day
15 prior to the date of the first election.

16 **Section 3. Codification Instructions.** The Codifier and the
17 Office of General Counsel are authorized to make all chapter and
18 division "table of contents" consistent with the changes set forth
19 herein, including renumbering of sections. Such editorial changes and
20 any other changes necessary to make the Ordinance Code consistent
21 with the intent of this legislation are approved and directed herein,
22 and the changes to the Ordinance Code shall be made forthwith and
23 when inconsistencies are discovered.

24 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
25 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
26 without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Tiffiny Pinkstaff

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