

Introduced by Council Member Carrico:

ORDINANCE 2025-765

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 CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT ELECTION 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

WHEREAS, Section 350.102(b), *Ordinance Code*, provides that a

1 general Consolidated Government election (the "Second Election")
2 shall be held on the eighth Tuesday after the First Election; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals.** The above recitals

are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. 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. 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* are hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 350 - ELECTIONS, ELECTION REGULATIONS, AND CAMPAIGNING

PART 1. - GENERAL PROVISIONS

*** * ***

Sec. 350.102. - Consolidated Government elections.

(a) *First election.* A first Consolidated Government election shall be held on the tenth ~~twelfth~~ Tuesday of the year in which general Consolidated Government elections are to be held. Each candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast in each contest in a first Consolidated Government election shall be declared elected for such office. A general Consolidated Government election shall be held as provided in subsection (b) of this Section in all contests in which a candidate does not receive a majority. The candidates in the general election shall be the two candidates with the highest vote totals in the first election. In the event more than one candidate received 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.

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Sec. 350.106. - Qualification of Candidates.

Candidates for offices to be filled by election pursuant to this Chapter shall qualify for such election by following those procedures for candidate qualification specified in Chapter 99, Florida

1 Statutes, except the first day for qualifying as defined in Section
2 99.061(2), Florida Statutes, shall be the fifty seventh day prior to
3 the first election, but not later than noon of the fifty third day
4 prior to the date of the first election.

5 **Section 3. Codification Instructions.** The Codifier and the
6 Office of General Counsel are authorized to make all chapter and
7 division "table of contents" consistent with the changes set forth
8 herein, including renumbering of sections. Such editorial changes and
9 any other changes necessary to make the Ordinance Code consistent
10 with the intent of this legislation are approved and directed herein,
11 and the changes to the Ordinance Code shall be made forthwith and
12 when inconsistencies are discovered.

13 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
14 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
15 without the Mayor's signature.

16
17 Form Approved:

18
19 /s/Mary E. Staffopoulos

20 Office of General Counsel

21 Legislation Prepared By: Tiffiny Pinkstaff

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