

ORDINANCE NO. C-18-46

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, THEREBY PROVIDING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS, PROVIDING FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2020 AND EVERY FOUR YEARS THEREAFTER, PROVIDING FOR THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS ELECTED IN 2018 TO SERVE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE ELECTED AND QUALIFIED AS A RESULT OF THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION, PROVIDING FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS BEGINNING IN 2021, PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION MEETING TO BE ON THE FIRST TUESDAY THAT IS A REGULAR MEETING DAY IN JANUARY FOLLOWING EACH REGULAR ELECTION, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCE PROVISIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE CONDITIONED ON APPROVAL BY THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA.

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WHEREAS, the Charter Revision Board has recommended to the City Commission that certain amendments be made to the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission proposes certain amendments to the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to be submitted for voter approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That Section 3.02 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

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**Sec. 3.02. - Creation, composition and term of commission.**

There is hereby created a city commission composed of one (1) mayor-commissioner and four (4) city commissioners all of whom shall be elected in the manner provided in this charter, shall take office on the first Tuesday that is a regular meeting day in January following their election, and who, beginning in the year 2021, shall hold office for a term of ~~three~~four (3~~4~~) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified. The term of the mayor and four (4) city commissioners that commenced in the year 2018 shall last until such time as their successors are elected and qualified as a result of the 2020 election. No person who has been elected to the office of mayor-commissioner or to the office of city commissioner for three (3) consecutive terms shall be qualified for nomination or election to that office for the succeeding term. This limitation shall apply to terms which commence after the regular election of March 7, 2000. The mayor-commissioner and the four (4) city commissioners are sometimes referred to herein as commissioners or the city commission.

SECTION 2. That Section 3.09 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

**Sec. 3.09. - Organization meeting.**

On the first Tuesday that is a regular meeting day in January following each regular election the existing city commission shall meet at the usual place for holding the meetings of the legislative body of the city, for the purpose of transacting any and all necessary business before assumption of office by the newly elected commissioners. At 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time the newly elected city commissioners shall assume the duties of office.

SECTION 3. That Section 3.10 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

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**Sec. 3.10. - Special meeting to seat a new member.**

On the first Tuesday following the election of a new member, elected at other than a ~~triennial~~quadrennial regular election, the commission shall meet to receive such new member.

SECTION 4. That Section 7.05 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby repealed as follows:

**~~Sec. 7.05. - Primary election.~~**

~~Beginning with 1988, and every third year thereafter, a regular municipal primary election shall be held on the second Tuesday of February for the purpose of nominating, from those persons qualifying in accordance with section 7.14 hereof, nominees for the office of mayor-commissioner and city commissioner unless such primary is made unnecessary pursuant to section 7.06.~~

~~Qualified electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale shall vote for not more than one (1) candidate for the office of mayor-commissioner.~~

~~Qualified electors residing within a commission district shall vote for not more than one (1) candidate for the office of city commissioner from that district and shall not be entitled to vote for candidates for city commission from any other commission district.~~

~~The two (2) candidates for the office of mayor-commissioner receiving the highest number of votes shall be nominated for the office of mayor-commissioner and the two (2) candidates for the office of city commissioner receiving the highest number of votes in each district shall be nominated for the office of city commissioner from that district. However, if any candidate for mayor-commissioner or city commissioner receives fifty (50) percent plus one (1) of the votes cast in a primary election for that office, such candidate shall be declared~~

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~~elected to that office and there shall be no regular municipal election for the office for which he was a candidate.~~

SECTION 5. That Section 7.06 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby repealed as follows:

**~~Sec. 7.06. - When primary election unnecessary.~~**

~~Should the number of candidates qualifying for the office of mayor-commissioner or city commissioner be not more than two (2) candidates for any such office, then, and in that event, no primary election for that office shall be held. When the time for qualifying for such primary election has passed, the city clerk shall certify such fact to the city commission, and the city commission shall declare such persons to be nominated for the office of mayor-commissioner or city commissioner and have their names printed in the appropriate manner on the ballot for the next regular or special municipal election. However, if there are more than two (2) candidates for the office of mayor-commissioner or city commissioner and if those candidates have qualified for a primary election as provided for in this charter, then it shall be the duty of the city commission to hold a primary election.~~

SECTION 6. That Section 7.07 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

**Sec. 7.07. - General election; regular municipal election.**

Beginning in the year with 19882020, and every ~~third~~fourth year thereafter, a regular municipal election shall be held on the ~~second~~first Tuesday after the first Monday in March~~November~~ for the purpose of electing a mayor-commissioner and four (4) city commissioners. However, should only one (1) candidate qualify for the office of mayor-commissioner or city commissioner, then, and in that event, no regular election for that office shall be held and the city clerk shall certify such fact to the city commission and the city commission shall declare such

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person(s) to be elected to the office of mayor-commissioner or city commissioner.

Qualified electors shall vote for not more than one (1) candidate for the office of mayor-commissioner.

Qualified electors residing within a commission district shall vote for not more than one (1) candidate for the office of city commissioner from that district and shall not be entitled to vote for candidates for city commission from any other commission district.

The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the office for which he was a candidate.

The mayor-commissioner and the city commissioners elected at such election shall serve for terms of ~~three~~four (34) years each beginning on the ~~third~~first Tuesday that is a regular meeting day in ~~March~~January following their election and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

**SECTION 7.** That Section 7.08 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

**Sec. 7.08. - Filling vacancies in commission.**

When there shall exist a vacancy or vacancies in the office of city commissioner, and less than eighteen (18) months ensue before the time provided under this charter for holding the next regular ~~triennial~~quadrennial municipal ~~primary~~election, then such vacancy or vacancies for the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by resolution adopted by a majority of the remaining members of the city commission; and the person or persons so appointed must possess all of the qualifications of a member of the city commission.

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If a vacancy or vacancies occur in the office of city commissioner, and eighteen (18) months or more ensue before the time provided for holding the next regular ~~triennial~~quadrennial municipal ~~primary~~election, or, if a vacancy should occur at any time in the office of mayor-commissioner then a special municipal ~~primary and~~ election shall be called to fill such vacancy or vacancies.

SECTION 8. That Section 7.09 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby repealed as follows:

**~~Sec. 7.09. - Special municipal primary election.~~**

~~A special municipal primary election for the purpose of nominating candidates for the office of mayor-commissioner or city commissioner, to fill a vacancy or vacancies on account of death, removal, forfeiture, disqualification, resignation or other cause, except as provided in section 7.08 above, shall be held within sixty (60) days after such vacancy occurs; and the city commission, by resolution, shall fix the time for qualifying for office and of holding such special municipal primary election, which shall not be less than forty-five (45) days after adoption of the resolution calling such election.~~

SECTION 9. That Section 7.10 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

**Sec. 7.10. - Special municipal elections to elect mayor-commissioner or city commissioners.**

A special municipal election for the purpose of electing the mayor-commissioner or a member or members of the city commission, to fill a vacancy or vacancies in the city commission, on account of death, removal, resignation or other cause, shall be held ~~two (2) weeks after the special municipal primary election,~~ in the same manner as provided herein for a regular ~~triennial~~quadrennial election. The city commission may call the ~~special municipal primary election and the special municipal election by the same resolution.~~ Such resolution shall specify

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the length of the unexpired term or terms to be filled, and the time of taking office of the elected mayor-commissioner, city commissioner or commissioners; which mayor-commissioner, city commissioner or commissioners shall hold office until their successors, elected in regular ~~triennial~~quadrennial municipal elections, shall take office.

**SECTION 10.** That Section 7.12 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

**Sec. 7.12. - Elections—How arranged for; creation of districts.**

The city commission shall make all necessary arrangements for holding all city elections, and shall declare the result thereof. The city commission shall adopt a resolution calling any ~~triennial~~quadrennial ~~primary~~ election or special ~~primary~~ election, except as otherwise provided for, stating therein where the same shall be held, and naming the different offices to be filled or questions to be decided, and shall cause the notice of election to be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks preceding the day of election in a newspaper published in the city, the first publication or posting to be not less than ten (10) days prior to said election.

Not later than April 1, 1987 the city commission shall, by ordinance, adopt, create and establish four (4) separate and distinct geographical commission districts. Except as is provided herein for noncontiguous parcels, the four (4) districts to be created and established by the city commission shall be of contiguous territory and as approximately equal in population as is practicable. If there are parcels of land which are within the corporate limits of and which are part of the City of Fort Lauderdale, but which parcels are not contiguous to any other parcel or tract of land which is within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Lauderdale, then such noncontiguous parcel(s) shall either be made part of one (1) of the districts to be created as provided for herein or if such parcel(s) has a population approximately equal to the other commission districts to be created, then such parcel(s) may be a

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commission district. In creating and establishing the four (4) city commission districts, the city commission shall use the most recent United States Census data to determine population figures. After the receipt of the published information of each decennial census, the city commission shall reestablish the boundaries of the four (4) commission districts so that the districts shall be as approximately equal in population as is practicable.

Beginning in 1988 all electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale shall be entitled to vote for candidates for the office of mayor-commissioner; however, only the electors of each commission district shall be entitled to vote for candidates for city commissioner from that district.

SECTION 11. That this Ordinance shall not take effect unless a ballot measure is approved by a majority of the electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale voting at the election to be held on March 12, 2019. The ballot measure to be submitted shall be in substantially the following form:

Charter Amendment ~~No. \_\_\_\_\_~~  
Municipal Elections

Should the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale be amended to eliminate municipal primary elections and to provide for municipal elections in conjunction with the general election in November 2020 and every four years thereafter, to provide for the mayor and commissioners elected in 2018 to serve until their successors are elected and qualified following the November 2020 election, and to provide for four-year terms for the mayor and commissioners beginning in 2021?

☐ YES, for approval

☐ NO, for rejection

SECTION 12. That if any clause, section or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

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SECTION 13. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 14. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect, as conditioned in Section 11, ten days from the date of certification by the Supervisor of Elections for Broward County, Florida, of approval by the electors of the ballot question.

PASSED FIRST READING this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

PASSED SECOND READING this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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Mayor  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

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City Clerk  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI

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