



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
REGULAR MEETING**

**#26-0582**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager  
Shari L. McCartney, City Attorney

**DATE:** June 2, 2026

**TITLE:** Second Reading – Ordinance Amending the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Article III, Government of City and Form of Government, Sections 3.03 – Qualification of Members, 3.05 – Designation of Vice Mayor, 3.09 – Organizational Meeting, Section 3.10 – Special Meeting to Seat a New Member; Article IV, Executive Officers, Section 4.04 – Functions and Duties of Mayor – (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt an ordinance amending the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Article III, Government of City and Form of Government, and; Article IV, Executive Officers, conditioned on approval by a majority of the electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale voting in a special election to be held on November 3, 2026.

**Background**

On May 19, 2026, the City Commission approved this item on first reading by unanimous vote. This item was included in a combined Commission Agenda Memorandum (CAM) on the May 19, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting agenda. However, in an effort to make these items more easily understood as to what is being proposed and to ensure the vote is clear, the items are being divided into separate CAMs on second reading.

If the corresponding ballot measure is approved by a majority of the electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the proposed ordinance would amend the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to update the qualifications for the offices of Mayor and City Commissioner, providing for the assumption of office at the first regular City Commission meeting following certification of an election, and providing for the designation of a Vice Mayor at the City Commission's first meeting after all elected officials assume office following a regular municipal election and annually thereafter.

To review the revised text of the proposed amendment, along with the associated question to be placed on the 2026 ballot, please refer to Exhibit 1.

On May 5, 2026, staff provided the City Commission with a presentation of draft ballot

questions associated with various sections of the City of Fort Lauderdale Charter (Charter).

These sections included:

Article III – Government of City and Form of Government.

- Section 3.03 – Qualification of members; ~~forfeiture of office.~~
- Section 3.04 – Judge of elections and qualifications of members.
- Section 3.05 – Designation of vice-mayor.
- Section 3.09 – Organizational meeting.
- ~~Section 3.10 – Special meeting to seat a new member. (delete)~~
- Section 3.12 – Special meetings – how called.

Article IV – Executive Officers.

- Section 4.06 – ~~Acting city manager upon resignation of or during absence or disability of~~ Designation of interim or action city manager.
- Section 4.08 – Removal or discharge.

Article VI – Civil Service System.

- Section 6.02 – Classified and nonclassified service.
- Section 6.04 – Civil service board; created; composition.

Article VII – Elections.

- Section 7.16 – Election; tie vote; ~~primary election to fill one vacancy.~~

Article X – Miscellaneous Provisions.

- ~~Section 10.03 – Public hearing and public notice. (delete)~~

These recommendations are part of an overall amendment proposal by the Charter Revision Board (CRB). The following will provide a list of communications to the City Commission relating to the recommendations from the CRB:

- May 21, 2024 – CRB/City Commission Joint Workshop (CAM #24-0535)
- September 17, 2024 – CRB/City Commission Joint Workshop (CAM #24-0887)
- August 8, 2025 – Commission Memorandum No. 25-138
- September 3, 2025 – Communication to the City Commission with open discussion between the chair / vice-chair of the CRB and the City Commission (CAM #25-0841)
- October 7, 2025 – City Commission Conference Item (CAM #25-0993)
- March 20, 2026 – Letter to Commission No. 26-080
- April 7, 2026 – Charter Revision Board Recommendations & Updates (CAM #26-0382)
- May 5, 2026 – Presentation Charter Revision Ballot Questions (CAM #26-0466)

If the corresponding ballot measure is approved by a majority of the electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale voting in the election, the proposed ordinances would amend the sections of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida listed above. Specifically, the amendments would:

- Amend and update the qualifications of the office of mayor and city commission;
- Provide that elected officials assume office at the first regular city commission meeting following certification of the election;
- Designate the vice mayor at the first meeting after the elected officials assume office;
- Specify the procedure for candidates submitting documentation to the City Clerk for review;
- Remove the City Commission's authority to receive affidavits alleging violations by candidates; Revise the meeting notice for special meetings to take place at least seventy-two (72) hours except in emergency situations;
- Prescribe a method for resolving a tie in nominations to the Civil Service Board Nominating Committee;
- Modify the composition of the election board that certifies the results of elections for classified employees;
- Remove the Civil Service Board's duty to review, consider, and advise the city manager concerning job class specifications;
- Delete references to primary elections, remove the requirement of two (2) newspaper publications for public hearings and other types of notice; and
- Distinguish the title of interim city manager, who is appointed in the event of the city manager's resignation or termination, from that of acting city manager, who is appointed during temporary absences of the city manager.

### **Related CAMs**

CAM #26-0583  
CAM #26-0584  
CAM #26-0585  
CAM #26-0602  
CAM #26-0603  
CAM #26-0604  
CAM #26-0605  
CAM #26-0606

### **Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance No. C-26-20  
Exhibit 2 – Business Impact Estimate

Paul G. Bangel, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Gabrielle Bush, Assistant City Attorney

Charter Officers:

Rickelle Williams, City Manager  
Shari L. McCartney, City Attorney