

ORDINANCE NO. C-26-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, CONDITIONED ON THE APPROVAL OF VARIOUS BALLOT MEASURES, BY SPECIFYING THE PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDATES TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION TO THE CITY CLERK FOR REVIEW, AND REMOVING THE CITY COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE AFFIDAVITS AND MAKE A FINDING AS TO WHETHER A CANDIDATE VIOLATED THE CHARTER OR IS UNQUALIFIED, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCE PROVISIONS, CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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 consideration;

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

SECTION 1. That Section 3.04 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

Sec. 3.04. - Judge of elections and qualifications of members.

All candidates for the office of mayor or city commissioner shall submit to the city clerk, for a ministerial review, documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with this charter and applicable law. The city commission shall be the judge of the qualifications of its members, ~~referendums and all municipal elections and referendums and of the qualifications of its members,~~ subject to review by the courts. At the time that the city commission meets to canvass the results of any election, any registered elector of City of Fort Lauderdale shall be entitled to file with the city commission an affidavit setting out the facts showing that a candidate

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has violated the provisions of this charter as to the manner of his or her election, or is otherwise unqualified to hold office, and the city commission shall take proof at such meeting and declare the results.

SECTION 2. That Section 3.04 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be, and is hereby amended to provide as follows:

Sec. 3.04. - Judge of elections and qualifications of members.

The city commission shall be the judge of all municipal elections and referendums and of the qualifications of its members, subject to review by the courts. ~~At the time that the city commission meets to canvass the results of any election, any registered elector of City of Fort Lauderdale shall be entitled to file with the city commission an affidavit setting out the facts showing that a candidate has violated the provisions of this charter as to the manner of his or her election, or is otherwise unqualified to hold office, and the city commission shall take proof at such meeting and declare the results.~~

SECTION 3. That Section 1 of this Ordinance shall not take effect unless a corresponding ballot measure is approved by a majority of the electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale voting at the election to be held on November 3, 2026. The ballot measure to be submitted shall be in substantially the following form:

CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 2

SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATE DOCUMENTATION

Should the City of Fort Lauderdale Charter be amended to specify the procedure for candidates for the office of mayor or city commissioner to submit documentation to the City Clerk for review?

YES, for approval

NO, for rejection

SECTION 4. That Section 2 of this Ordinance shall not take effect unless a corresponding ballot measure is approved by a majority of the electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale voting at

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the election to be held on November 3, 2026. The ballot measure to be submitted shall be in substantially the following form:

CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 3

REMOVAL OF CITY COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF ELECTOR CHALLENGES TO CANDIDATES

Should the City of Fort Lauderdale Charter be amended to remove the City Commission’s authority to receive affidavits alleging that a candidate for the office of mayor or city commissioner has violated the Charter or is unqualified and make a finding as to whether such candidate violated the Charter or is unqualified, thereby leaving such considerations to the courts?

YES, for approval

NO, for rejection

SECTION 5. 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.

SECTION 6. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. That, at the direction of the City Attorney, the publisher of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is authorized to conform chapter, article, section, subsection, and clause numbers and letters, and capitalization, set forth in this Ordinance, to the numbering, lettering, and capitalization structure established in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and to correct non-substantive scrivener’s errors in the codification of these Charter amendments.

SECTION 8. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect, as conditioned in Sections 3 and 4, ten days after the date of certification of election results by the Broward County Canvassing Board. However, in the event neither of the ballot measures set forth in Sections 3 and 4 is approved by a majority of the electors of the City of Fort Lauderdale voting at the election to be held on November 3, 2026, this Ordinance shall not take effect.

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PASSED FIRST READING this 19th day of May, 2026.

PASSED SECOND READING this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

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