



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0602

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,
Section 3.04 – Judge of Elections and Qualifications of Members –
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

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, Section 3.04 – Judge of Elections and Qualifications of Members, 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

During the May 19, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting, the City Commission approved this item on first reading by unanimous vote. This item was part of a combined Commission Agenda Memorandum (CAM) on the May 19, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting agenda. To help clarify the proposals and provide clarity on the voting, this item has been separated into an individual CAM for the second reading.

If the corresponding ballot measures are 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 specify the procedure for candidates to submit documentation to the City Clerk for review, and remove the City Commission's authority to receive affidavits and make a finding as to whether a candidate violated the Charter or is unqualified.

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

During the May 5, 2026, City Commission Conference Meeting, 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, 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 #26-0582
CAM #26-0583
CAM #26-0584
CAM #26-0585
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-26-21
Exhibit 2 – Business Impact Estimate

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