

PROPOSED
ORDINANCE NO. 40-22

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE
TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA; AMENDING ARTICLE VII – RECALL, INITIATIVE, AND REFERENDUM; AMENDING SECTION 7.02 – POWER OF INITIATIVE; AMENDING SECTION 7.03 – POWER OF REFERENDUM; AMENDING SECTION 7.04 – COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS; AMENDING SECTION 7.05 – INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM PETITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 7.06 – VERIFICATION OF PETITIONS; PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM THEREON; REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Pensacola has determined that certain amendments to the City Charter are in order to clarify and update the Charter; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 166.031 Florida Statutes, the City Council is required to submit the Charter Amendments to the electors of the City for approval or rejection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Council calls for the holding of a referendum of the electors of the City of Pensacola on November 8, 2022, to consider and vote for or against the approval of proposed amendments to the City Charter.

SECTION 2. The Supervisor of Elections of Escambia County is hereby appointed as the clerk of a municipal election to be held on November 8, 2022.

SECTION 3. The City of Pensacola shall reimburse the Supervisor of Elections for any costs incurred by that office directly related to the preparation for, conducting of, and certifying the results of the referendum on the proposed City Charter revision.

SECTION 4. The language to appear on the ballot of the referendum on the proposed City Charter revisions shall be:

QUESTION

THE CITY OF PENSACOLA – REFERENDUM QUESTION NO. 5

Shall the Charter be amended to add a further exception to the powers of initiative for ordinances and of referendum for any measures passed by the City Council regarding the compelling of government speech in a particular manner; and to clarify the timing of and procedures for petitioning for initiative and referendum?

_____ **Yes – For Approval**

_____ **No – Against Approval**

SECTION 5. The appropriate officials of the City shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation of the City the notices of the Referendum required by the existing City Charter and applicable Florida Law.

SECTION 6. In the event the foregoing proposal is approved by a majority of the electors voting on the proposal, the following provision of the Charter for the City of Pensacola shall be added to Article IV of the existing Charter, to wit:

ARTICLE VII – RECALL, INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 7.02. Power of Initiative.

City electors shall have the power to propose ordinances to the City Council. If the City Council fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without any change in substance, the electors have the power to adopt or reject the proposed ordinance at a City election. The electors are not empowered to propose ordinances that extend to providing an annual budget, levying taxes, setting salaries of City officers or employees, or compelling government speech in a particular manner.

Section 7.03. Power of Referendum.

No later than ~~Within~~ sixty (60) days following the effective date of a measure passed by City Council, City electors shall have the power to require reconsideration

by the City Council of any measure passed by City Council. If the City Council fails to repeal a measure so reconsidered, the electors shall have the power to ~~approve~~ adopt or reject the reconsidered measure by petition as specified in Section 7.05 following ~~at a City election~~. The electors are not empowered to reconsider measures that extend to providing an annual budget, levying taxes, or- setting salaries of City officers or employees, or compelling government speech in a particular manner.

Section 7.04. Commencement of Proceedings.

Within sixty (60) days of a measure passed by City Council either adopting or rejecting the proposed ordinance or adopting or rejecting the proposed repeal of a measure, ~~A~~ any ten (10) electors may commence initiative or referendum proceedings by filing with the City Clerk an affidavit stating that they will constitute the petitioners' committee and be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form. The affidavit shall further provide their names and addresses, specify the mailing address for notices to be sent to the committee, and fully set forth the proposed initiative or identify the measure sought to be reconsidered. Promptly after the petitioners' committee's affidavit is filed, the City Clerk, at the committee's request, shall issue the appropriate petition forms to the committee at the committee's expense.

Section 7.05. Initiative or Referendum Petitions.

(a) **Number and Signatures.** Initiative and referendum petitions must be signed by City electors equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the total number of registered electors in the City, as shown by the compilation by the Supervisor of Elections for the most recent general election of the City Council.

(b) **Form and Content.** All petition papers shall be uniform in size and style and shall be printed on separate cards or individual sheets of paper. Adequate space must be provided for the voter's name, address, signature, and date of signature. Petitions shall contain or have attached thereto throughout their circulation the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

(c) **Statement of Circulator.** When filed, petitions shall have attached an affidavit statement executed and sworn by a member of the petitioner's committee that ~~by the circulator or circulators of the petitions that~~ he, she, or they personally circulated the petitions. The statement shall further state the number of signed petitions submitted and that the ~~circulator~~ petitioner's committee believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be.

(d) **Filing Deadline.** All initiative and referendum petitions must be filed with the City Clerk within sixty (60) days of the commencement date of the initiative or referendum proceedings as specified in Section 7.04 above. The City Clerk shall submit the petitions to the Supervisor of Elections within three (3) ~~business~~ days of receipt of the petitions.

Section 7.06. Verification of Petitions.

The petitioner's committee shall submit with the petitions ~~the completed petitions to the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections for verification as to the number of registered electors whose valid signatures appear thereon, along with any fee required by general law.~~ The Supervisor of Elections shall make a good faith effort to verify the signatures within ten (10) days of receipt of the petitions. The Supervisor of Elections shall record the date each form is received by the Supervisor of Elections, and the date the signature on the form is verified as valid. The Supervisor of Elections may verify that the signature on a form is valid only if (i) the form contains the original signature of the elector; (ii) the elector has accurately recorded on the form the date on which he or she signed the form; (iii) the form accurately sets forth the elector's name and address; and (iv) the elector is, at the time he or she signs the form, a duly qualified and registered elector of the City.

SECTION 7. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 8. This ordinance shall take effect on immediately upon adoption.

Adopted: _____

Approved: _____
President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk