

PROPOSED  
ORDINANCE NO. 38-22

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE  
TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA; AMENDING ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 6.03 - QUALIFICATIONS, ELIGIBILITY, AND FILING FEE; AMENDING SECTION 6.06 – ALTERNATIVE TO QUALIFYING FEE; 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

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**THE CITY OF PENSACOLA – REFERENDUM QUESTION NO. 3**

**Shall the Charter be amended to reduce filing fees for candidates for offices of Mayor and City Council; reduce the percentage of signatures needed for being placed on a ballot for either the office of Mayor or City Council; and further reduce, during decennial census years, the percentage of signatures needed for candidates for Mayor or City Council to be placed on the ballot?**

\_\_\_\_\_ **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 VI of the existing Charter, to wit:

**ARTICLE VI– ELECTIONS**

**Section 6.03. Qualifications, Eligibility, and Filing Fee**

(b) *Filing Fee.* Each candidate shall pay to the qualifying officer a filing fee in the amount of ~~three percent (3%)~~ one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the annual salary of the office of Mayor or office of Member of City Council, as well as an election assessment as provided by Florida law.

**Section 6.06. Alternative to Qualifying Fee.**

(c) *Valid Signatures.* The candidate may begin to seek signatures on a petition supporting his or her candidacy once the requirements of general law are met. Only signatures of City electors shall be counted toward obtaining the minimum number of signatures prescribed in this subsection. Candidates for the office of Mayor under this petition process shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified electors equal to at least ~~five percent (5%)~~ two and one-half percent (2.5 %) 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. A candidate for a single-member district position shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified electors residing in the district for which the candidate seeks election equal to at least ~~five percent (5%)~~ of two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total number of registered electors in the district, as shown by the same compilation.

For the City election next following each decennial census, the required petition signatures shall be as follows:

(i) Candidates for the office of Mayor under this petition process shall obtain the signatures of a number of registered voters of the City equal to at least ~~two and one-half percent (2.5%)~~ one and one-quarter percent (1.25%) of the population of the City according to the most recent decennial census.

(ii) A candidate for the office of a district City Council Member under this petition process shall obtain the signatures of a number of registered voters residing in the district for which the candidate seeks election equal to at least ~~two and one-half percent (2.5%)~~ one and one-quarter percent (1.25%) of the ideal district population according to the most recent decennial census. For the purposes of this section, the "ideal district population" means the total population of the City based upon the most recent decennial census divided by the number of City Council districts.

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