

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-17

AN ORDINANCE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 9G OF WELLINGTON'S MUNICIPAL CHARTER RELATING TO THE VILLAGE CANVASSING BOARD BY AMENDING SECTION 9, SUBSECTION G, "VILLAGE CANVASSING BOARD" TO DESIGNATE THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD AS THE VILLAGE'S CANVASSING BOARD AND TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT TO APPOINT A COMMUNITY MEMBER TO THE CANVASSING BOARD; PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF WELLINGTON AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 10, 2026; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, Section 166.031, Florida Statutes, provides that the governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, submit to the electors of the municipality a proposed amendment to the municipality's charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter currently provides that in municipal elections, the Village Council may, by ordinance, designate the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board appointed by the Palm Beach County Commission and the Chief Judge of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit as the Village Canvassing Board. In the event the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board is unable or unwilling to canvass a Wellington municipal election, the Village Canvassing Board shall be comprised of those members of the Village Council who are not candidates for reelection, the Village Clerk, and when necessary to avoid an even number, the Deputy Village Clerk or a member of the community and an alternate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board routinely canvasses municipal elections, including Wellington's, during uniform municipal election cycles, but the Charter, as currently written, requires Council to adopt an ordinance for that purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, requiring a separate Village Canvassing Board, including a community member and an alternate, to serve the same function as the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board is duplicative and unnecessary; and

**WHEREAS**, designating the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board to serve as Wellington's canvassing board during municipal elections without the need for adoption of an ordinance each election cycle results in more efficient government while preserving Wellington's ability to convene its own canvassing board in those instances where the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board is unable or unwilling to canvass a Wellington municipal

1 election; and

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3 **WHEREAS**, the need to appoint a community member and an alternate as members  
4 of the Village Canvassing Board is unnecessary because Wellington has sufficient staff to  
5 ensure that its canvassing board will not be comprised of an even number; and  
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7 **WHEREAS**, Wellington's Council deems it necessary and advisable for the voters of  
8 Wellington to consider amending the charter of the Village of Wellington to designate the  
9 Palm Beach County Canvassing Board as its canvassing board during municipal elections  
10 and to eliminate the requirement for a community member and an alternate to serve in order  
11 to avoid an even number of board members.  
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13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF**  
14 **WELLINGTON, FLORIDA:**  
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16 **SECTION 1.** Section 9, Subsection G. "Village Canvassing Board" of the Village of  
17 Wellington Charter is hereby proposed to be amended to read as follows:  
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19 G. *Village Canvassing Board.* The Village Council ~~may, by ordinance,~~  
20 designate the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board appointed by  
21 the Palm Beach County Commission and the Chief Judge of the  
22 Fifteenth Judicial Circuit to serve as the Village Canvassing Board. In  
23 the event the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board is unable or  
24 unwilling to canvass a Wellington municipal election, the Village  
25 Canvassing Board shall be composed of those members of the Village  
26 Council who are not candidates for reelection and the village clerk, who  
27 shall act as chairperson. In any Village election in which the Village  
28 Canvassing Board is composed of an even number of persons, Council  
29 shall appoint the Deputy Village Clerk ~~or a member of the community~~  
30 ~~and an alternate~~ to serve on the Canvassing Board in order to avoid  
31 single or even membership. At the close of the polls of any Village  
32 election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the Canvassing Board  
33 shall meet at a time and place designated by the Palm Beach County  
34 Supervisor of Elections, or the chairperson of the Village Canvassing  
35 Board, and shall proceed to publicly canvass the vote as shown by the  
36 returns then on file in the office of the Supervisor or the Village Clerk,  
37 and then shall publicly canvass the absentee elector ballots. The  
38 Canvassing Board shall prepare and sign a certificate containing the  
39 total number of votes cast for each candidate or other measure voted  
40 upon. The certificate shall be placed on file with the Village Clerk.  
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42 **SECTION 2.** The charter amendment proposed by this ordinance shall be submitted  
43 to the electors of the Village of Wellington at the election to be held on March 10, 2026 and  
44 shall be deemed adopted upon the favorable vote of a majority of the electors voting at that  
45 time upon the following question:  
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1                                   **VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON REFRENDUM QUESTION NO. 3**

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3                                   **Village Canvassing Board**

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5       **BALLOT SUMMARY:** Wellington's canvassing board is comprised of  
6 councilmembers who are not candidates for reelection, the Village Clerk, and  
7 when necessary to avoid an even number, the Deputy Village Clerk or community  
8 members. Council may designate by ordinance the Palm Beach County  
9 Canvassing Board to serve as its canvassing board. The proposed amendment  
10 designates the county canvassing board to canvass Wellington elections without  
11 an ordinance and eliminates the appointment of community members to the  
12 Village canvassing board.

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14       **BALLOT QUESTION:** Shall the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board be  
15 designated to canvass Wellington elections without requiring an ordinance  
16 and shall community members be eliminated from the Wellington  
17 Canvassing Board when the county canvassing board is unable to serve?

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19                               \_\_\_    **Yes**

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21                               \_\_\_    **No**

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23       **SECTION 3.** In the event of adoption by the electorate as provided herein,  
24 Wellington's Clerk shall forthwith incorporate the amendment into Wellington's charter by  
25 preparing a true copy of section 9G as amended, and shall file the revised section with the  
26 Florida Department of State, at which time the revised section shall take effect.

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28       **SECTION 4.** Wellington's Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be published once a  
29 week for four consecutive weeks immediately prior to the election on March 10, 2026.

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31       **SECTION 5.** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this  
32 Ordinance conflict with any section, paragraph, clause or phrase of any prior Wellington  
33 Ordinance, Resolution, or Municipal Code provision; then in that event the provisions of this  
34 Ordinance shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

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36       **SECTION 6:** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this  
37 Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall  
38 not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any portion or part thereof, other than  
39 the part so declared to be invalid.

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41       **SECTION 7:** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption of the  
42 Wellington Council following second reading.

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44       **PASSED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 upon first reading.  
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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, on second and final reading.

**WELLINGTON**

	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
BY: _____ Michael Napoleone, Mayor	_____	_____
_____ Tanya Siskind, Vice Mayor	_____	_____
_____ John McGovern, Councilman	_____	_____
_____ Maria Antuna, Councilwoman	_____	_____
_____ Amanda Silvestri, Councilwoman	_____	_____

**ATTEST:**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chevelle D. Hall, Village Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Cohen, Village Attorney