

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-18

AN ORDINANCE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 9C OF WELLINGTON'S MUNICIPAL CHARTER RELATING TO CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES BY AMENDING SECTION 9, SUBSECTION C, "QUALIFYING FOR OFFICE" TO MOVE THE QUALIFYING PERIOD TO A TWO WEEK PERIOD IN NOVEMBER PRIOR TO THE MARCH GENERAL ELECTION; 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 residents wishing to qualify to become a candidate for a Village elective office must qualify with the Clerk no sooner than noon on the last Tuesday in January and not later than noon on the second Tuesday in February of the year in which the election is to be held; and

WHEREAS, Wellington's municipal elections are held during the uniform municipal elections period, which occurs on the second Tuesday in March of each election year; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections requires at least 95 days prior to an election to have sufficient time to prepare, print, and test municipal ballots and to convert such ballots into an accessible format for persons with disabilities and has therefore requested that municipalities ensure that their candidate qualifying periods be moved to accommodate such time period; and

WHEREAS, Wellington's Council deems it necessary and advisable for the voters of Wellington to consider amending the charter of the Village of Wellington to move the qualifying period to a two week period during November of the year prior to the March municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, moving the qualifying period to November avoids conflict with various Fall and Winter holidays and promotes participation by those who may seek to become candidates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE

1 **VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA:**

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3 **SECTION 1.** Section 9, Subsection C. "Qualifying for Office" is hereby proposed to be
4 amended to read as follows:

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6 C. *Qualifying for office.* Any resident of the Village who wishes to become
7 a candidate for a Village elective office shall qualify with the Village Clerk
8 no sooner than noon on the first Tuesday in November nor later than
9 noon on the third Tuesday in November of the year prior to which the
10 election is to be held.

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12 **SECTION 2.** The charter amendment proposed by this ordinance shall be submitted
13 to the electors of the Village of Wellington at the election to be held on March 10, 2026 and
14 shall be deemed adopted upon the favorable vote of a majority of the electors voting at that
15 time upon the following question:

16
17 **VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON REFRENDUM QUESTION NO. 1**

18
19 **Qualifying for Office**

20
21 **BALLOT SUMMARY:** To facilitate timely preparation, printing and testing of
22 ballots, the Supervisor of Elections has required that municipalities now submit
23 their candidates for election at least 95 days prior to said election. To
24 accommodate this, a Charter amendment establishing Wellington's official
25 qualifying period to run for the Village Council as a two week period in November,
26 rather than in January, is required.

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28 **BALLOT QUESTION:** Shall the qualifying period for Village elective offices
29 be moved to November?

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31 ☐ **Yes**

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33 ☐ **No**

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

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

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43 **SECTION 5.** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this
44 Ordinance conflict with any section, paragraph, clause or phrase of any prior Wellington
45 Ordinance, Resolution, or Municipal Code provision; then in that event the provisions of this

Ordinance shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

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

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

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025 upon first reading.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025, on second and final reading.

WELLINGTON

	FOR	AGAINST
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