

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**, in multiple past elections, the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections has requested that Wellington designate the county canvassing board to canvass its elections, eliminating the need for Wellington to convene its own separate canvassing board.; 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 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

1 canvass a Wellington municipal election; and

2  
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 designates the Palm  
20 Beach County Canvassing Board appointed by the Palm Beach County  
21 Commission and the Chief Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit to  
22 serve as the Village Canvassing Board. In the event the Palm Beach  
23 County Canvassing Board is unable or unwilling to canvass a Wellington  
24 municipal election, the Village Canvassing Board shall be composed  
25 of those members of the Village Council who are not candidates for  
26 reelection and the village clerk, who shall act as chairperson. In any  
27 Village election in which the Village Canvassing Board is composed of  
28 an even number of persons, Council shall appoint the Deputy Village  
29 Clerk to serve on the Canvassing Board in order to avoid single or  
30 even membership. At the close of the polls of any Village election, or  
31 as soon thereafter as practicable, the Canvassing Board shall meet at  
32 a time and place designated by the Palm Beach County Supervisor of  
33 Elections, or the chairperson of the Village Canvassing Board, and  
34 shall proceed to publicly canvass the vote as shown by the returns then  
35 on file in the office of the Supervisor or the Village Clerk, and then shall  
36 publicly canvass the absentee elector ballots. The Canvassing Board  
37 shall prepare and sign a certificate containing the total number of votes  
38 cast for each candidate or other measure voted upon. The certificate  
39 shall be placed on file with the Village Clerk.  
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41 **SECTION 2.** The charter amendment proposed by this ordinance shall be submitted  
42 to the electors of the Village of Wellington at the election to be held on March 10, 2026 and  
43 shall be deemed adopted upon the favorable vote of a majority of the electors voting at that  
44 time upon the following question:  
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46 **VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON REFRENDUM QUESTION NO. 2**

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## Village Canvassing Board

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** In multiple past municipal elections, the Supervisor of Elections has requested that Wellington designate the county canvassing board to canvass its elections, eliminating the need for Wellington to convene its own separate canvassing board. The proposed amendment designates the county canvassing board to canvass Wellington elections, eliminating redundancy and the need to appointment community members alternates.

**BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board be designated to canvass Wellington elections?**

\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_ No

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

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

**SECTION 5.** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance conflict with any section, paragraph, clause or phrase of any prior Wellington 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 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

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Tanya Siskind, Vice Mayor

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John McGovern, Councilman

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Maria Antuna, Councilwoman

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Amanda Silvestri, Councilwoman

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**ATTEST:**

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

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY**

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