Regular Workshop – September 15, 2014
Agenda Item 6
Consent Agenda

Agenda Item: Proposed Ordinance 2014-32, Establishing the Dates for the 2015 Preliminary and General Municipal Elections and the Early Voting Schedule

Presenter: Town Manager and Town Clerk

Summary: The Town's Charter establishes the date for the Town's General Election as the third Tuesday in March. As such, the 2015 General Election would normally be set for March 17, 2015, in accordance with the Charter. Additionally, if required, a Preliminary Election would be scheduled on the last Tuesday in January (January 27, 2015).

The Charter provides an option to align the Town's election with any other County administered election. The Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections offices have advised that they have three other elections currently scheduled on March 10, 2015, and have requested the Town align our election with this date.

Chapter 36, Elections, of the Town Code provides for establishing early voting in accordance with State law and established procedures. The dates for early voting are statutorily restricted.

Proposed Ordinance 2014-32 has been drafted for Commission consideration seeking confirmation of the Preliminary (if required) and General Municipal Election dates as well as establishing the early voting dates and hours.

Attachments: 9-03-14 Memo, Town Clerk to Manager;
7-22-14 E-Mail. Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections;
Proposed Ordinance 2014-32.

Recommended Action: Approval of the Consent Agenda will forward proposed Ordinance 2014-32 to the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting for first reading.

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: September 3, 2014

TO: David Bullock, Town Manager

FROM: Trish Granger, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Proposed Ordinance 2014-32, Establishing the Dates for the Town's Preliminary and General Municipal Elections and Early Voting Schedule

Article II, Section 4, of the Town's Charter sets the date for the Town's Preliminary Election as the last Tuesday in January and the General Election as the third Tuesday in March, as follows:

> Sec. 4. Elections generally.
> When there are more than two (2) qualified candidates for an elective office on the town commission, there shall be both a preliminary and general election. The preliminary election shall be held on the last Tuesday of January and the general election shall be held on the third Tuesday of March, or, when practicable, in conjunction with any County administered election held in March by the coordinating County, either Sarasota or Manatee County. If the date of the general election is changed as a result of coordinating with a County, the date of the preliminary election may also be changed in order to comply with State election laws. The names of the first and second highest number of votes cast for a particular office in the preliminary election shall be placed on the ballot for that office at the general election. If no more than two (2) electors qualify as candidates for nomination for each office to be voted upon, then no preliminary election need be held; and such qualified candidates shall be nominees at the next following general election.

The Charter provides an option to align the Town's elections with any other County administered election. The Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections office staff have advised that there are three other elections currently scheduled on March 10, 2015, and have requested the Town to align our election with this date. Manatee County has indicated that they have no elections slated for March and will be available to provide their services for either schedule.

In compliance with the Charter, the 2015 Preliminary Election, if required, would be scheduled for January 27, 2015, and the General Election would be scheduled for March 17, 2015. If the March 10, 2015, date is confirmed, it would also be necessary to advance the date of the Preliminary Election to January 13, 2015.

Chapter 36, Elections, of the Town Code provides for establishing early voting in accordance with State law and established procedures. The dates for early voting have been coordinated with the schedule proposed by the City of Sarasota for the March 10, 2015 Municipal Election.

If you require additional information, please advise.

From: Dent, Kathy
To: Trish Granger; Scott Farrington
Cc: Bain, Barbara; Sharon Stief; Administration 7th Floor
Subject: RE: Deadline for Ballot Language - March 2015 Longboat Key General Election
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:12:40 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png

Trish:

We will be conducting the City of Sarasota, Holiday Park, and Tri-Par Estates on March 10, 2015. It would be best if you all went then, as well.

Since your preliminary qualifying for candidates ends November 21, we would want the referendum language by that date.

In order to have time to print and mail military and overseas ballots 45 days out, your preliminary should be held on January 13. This would give those voters time to return their ballots for the general election.

I hope this works for all of the rest of you.

Thanks.

Kathy Dent

Kathy Dent, CERA
Supervisor of Elections
Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections
101 S. Washington Blvd.
Sarasota, Florida 34236

(941)861-8606
(941)650-0992 (cell)
(941)861-8609 (fax)
kdent@sarasotavotes.com

www.sarasotavotes.com

From: Trish Granger [mailto:tgranger@longboatkey.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2014 4:26 PM
To: Dent, Kathy; Scott Farrington
Cc: Bain, Barbara; Sharon Stief
Subject: Deadline for Ballot Language - March 2015 Longboat Key General Election

ORDINANCE 2014-32

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR JANUARY 13, 2015, AS THE PRELIMINARY ELECTION DATE AND MARCH 10, 2015, AS THE GENERAL ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING; PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF ELECTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Longboat Key Charter Article II, Section 4 states "The preliminary election shall be held on the last Tuesday of January and the general election shall be held on the third Tuesday of March, or when practicable, in conjunction with any County administered election held in March by the coordinating County, either Sarasota or Manatee County;" and

WHEREAS, the Sarasota County Supervisors of Elections has requested the Town to hold its general election in conjunction with other Sarasota County administered elections in March; and

WHEREAS, if the general election is aligned with other County administered elections it will be necessary to amend the date of the preliminary election if one is required; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Longboat Key Code Section 36.06 provides for early voting; and

WHEREAS, early voting provides citizens greater access to elections and facilitates increased voter participation; and

WHEREAS, advertising the elections are required by law and provides citizens with greater knowledge of election ballot candidates and issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The above Whereas clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct.

SECTION 2. The election date for the General Election is hereby set as Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

SECTION 3. The election date for the Preliminary Election, if required, is hereby set as Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

SECTION 4. Early voting for the General election shall be conducted at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, for six (6) days beginning Monday, March 2, 2015, through Saturday, March 7, 2015. The hours for early voting shall be daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Staffing for early voting will be provided through the applicable Supervisor of Elections offices coordinated by the Town Clerk's office.

SECTION 5. The ballot presentation for the Preliminary (if required) and General elections shall contain the names of the qualified candidates for Town Commission District Races as determined following the candidate qualifying deadline on November 17, 2014, and include any Referendum questions that may be approved by the Town Commission.

SECTION 6. Advertising of the election shall comply with State election laws and the Town Charter.

SECTION 7. Copies of this Ordinance shall be provided to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections and the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections.

SECTION 8. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this Resolution is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Town Commission.

PASSED at a meeting of the Town Commission held the ___ day of _____, 2014.

ADOPTED at a meeting and public hearing of the Town Commission held the ____ day of _____, 2014.

_____
James L. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Trish Granger, Town Clerk

End of Agenda Item