M E M O R A N D U M

Date: October 23, 2015

TO: David Bullock, Town Manager

FROM: Trish Granger, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2015-19, Establishing the Dates for the Town's 2016 Preliminary and General Municipal Elections and Early Voting Schedule

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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.

The Charter provides an option to align the Town's elections with any other County administered election. The Presidential Primary Election date has been established as March 15, 2016, which is the third Tuesday in March.

In compliance with the Charter, the 2016 Preliminary Election, if required, would be scheduled for January 26, 2016. The General Election will be scheduled for March 15, 2016.

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 will be coordinated with the schedule proposed by the Supervisor of Elections offices. Because of the Presidential Primary Election, early voting will not be offered at Town Hall but will be available at numerous locations throughout both Counties.

Ordinance 2015-19 establishes the dates for the Preliminary (if required) and General Municipal Elections and provides for participation in early voting.

If you require additional information, please advise.

ORDINANCE 2015-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR MARCH 15, 2016, AS THE GENERAL ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING FOR BALLOT PRESENTATION; 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 Presidential Primary Election has been scheduled by the Florida Legislature to be held on March 15, 2016; 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 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 15, 2016, in conjunction with the Presidential Preference Primary.

SECTION 3. Early voting for the General Election shall be conducted at the Offices of the Supervisor of Elections in Manatee and Sarasota Counties as provided for in Florida Statutes.

SECTION 4. The ballot presentation for the Longboat Key General election shall include: the names of the qualified candidates (if more than one) for Town Commission Districts 1, 3, 5, and At-Large, and any approved referendum questions forwarded by the Town Commission.

SECTION 5. Advertising of the election shall comply with State election laws and the Town Charter.

SECTION 6. Copies of this Ordinance shall be provided to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections and the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections.

SECTION 7. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this Resolution is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 8. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Town Commission.

PASSED on first reading on the ___ day of _____, 2015.

ADOPTED on second reading and public hearing at a meeting of the Town Commission held the ____ day of _____, 2015.

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Jack G. Duncan, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Trish Granger, Town Clerk