

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: November 8, 2016

TO: David Bullock, Town Manager
FROM: Trish Granger, Town Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance 2016-31, Establishing the Dates for the Town's 2017 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.

The Charter provides an option to align the Town's elections with any other County administered election. The City of Sarasota General Election date has been established as March 14, 2017, which is the second Tuesday in March.

In compliance with the Charter, the 2017 Preliminary Election, if required, would be scheduled for January 31, 2017. The General Election will be scheduled for March 14, 2017, in conjunction with the City of Sarasota's election date.

Chapter 36, Elections, of the Town Code provides for establishing early voting in accordance with State law and established procedures. The Supervisor of Elections staff has advised that they will offer early voting at Town Hall from March 6 through March 11, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily for both Manatee and Sarasota voters.

Based on the number of qualified applicants and the schedule provided for early voting, Ordinance 2016-31 has been modified following the November 7, 2016, first reading to incorporate the updates. The changes are reflected as underlined and ~~strikethrough~~ text.

Ordinance 2016-31 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 2016-31

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR MARCH 14, 2017, AS THE GENERAL ELECTION DATE; AND JANUARY 31, 2017, AS THE PRELIMINARY ELECTION DATE, IF REQUIRED; 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 City of Sarasota General Election has been scheduled to be held on March 14, 2017; 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 14, 2017, in conjunction with the City of Sarasota General Election, and the election date for a Preliminary Election, if required, is hereby set as Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

SECTION 3. Early voting for the General Election shall be conducted ~~at the Offices of the Supervisor of Elections in Manatee and Sarasota Counties~~ at the Longboat Key Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, from Monday, March 6 through Saturday, March 11, 2017, during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for both Manatee and Sarasota County registered voters.

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 ~~2, 4~~ 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 7th day of November, 2016.

ADOPTED on second reading and public hearing at a meeting of the Town Commission held the ____ day of _____, 2016.

Jack G. Duncan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Trish Granger, Town Clerk



End of Agenda Item