

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk
Report date: October 8, 2020
Meeting date: November 2, 2020
Subject: Ordinance 2020-19 to Establish the 2021 Election Dates

Recommended Action

Forward Ordinance 2020-19 to the December 7, 2020, Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

Background

Article II, Section 4, of the Town's Charter sets the date for the Town's Preliminary Election as the last Tuesday in January when three or more individuals qualify to run for the same seat, and sets 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.

In conjunction with coordination of dates with both Manatee and Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections offices, Ordinance 2020-19 provides for the date of January 26, 2021, for a Preliminary Election (if required) and March 9, 2021, for the General Election.

Town Code Chapter 36, Elections, provides for establishing early voting in accordance with State law and established procedures. The dates for early voting will be coordinated with the schedules offered by the Supervisor of Elections offices.

Ordinance 2020-19 also provides for ballot presentation, and advertising, and seeks Commission consideration and confirmation of the Preliminary and General Municipal Election dates, providing for early voting, ballot presentation, and advertising.

Due to the time frame for qualifying period and the required notice to the Supervisor of Elections offices in the event a Preliminary Election is required, first reading of Ordinance 2020-19 is necessary prior to the end of the qualifying period on November 16, 2020.

Staff Recommendation

Forward Ordinance 2020-19 to the December 7, 2020, Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

Attachments

Ordinance 2020-19

ORDINANCE 2020-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR MARCH 9, 2021, AS THE GENERAL ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING FOR JANUARY 26, 2021, AS THE PRELIMINARY ELECTION DATE, IF REQUIRED; PROVIDING FOR BALLOT PRESENTATION; PROVIDING FOR ADVERTISING OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR 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, if three individuals qualify for any one Commission District seat, a preliminary election will be 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 is 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 and incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. The election date for the Preliminary Election is hereby set as Tuesday, January 26, 2021, if required, or in conjunction with the election schedule established by the Sarasota and Manatee Supervisor of Elections offices.

SECTION 3. The election date for the General Election is hereby set as Tuesday, March 9, 2021, in conjunction with the election schedule established by the Sarasota and Manatee Supervisor of Elections offices.

SECTION 4. Early voting shall be coordinated with the schedule established by the Sarasota and Manatee Supervisor of Elections offices as provided for in Florida Statutes.

SECTION 5. 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 question forwarded by the Town Commission. To the extent required by law, the official ballot and notice of any referendum shall be published in both the English and Spanish language.

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 Ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 9. Codification. This Ordinance shall be codified and made a part of the official Code of Ordinances of the Town of Longboat Key upon adoption.

SECTION 10. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Town Commission.

PASSED on first reading on the 2nd day of November, 2020.

ADOPTED on second reading and public hearing at a meeting of the Town Commission held the ____ day of _____, 2020.

Kenneth Schneier, Mayor

ATTEST:

Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk

End of Agenda Item