

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Savannah Cobb, Deputy Town Clerk
Report date: October 26, 2022
Meeting date: November 7, 2022
Subject: Ordinance 2022-25, Establishing the 2023 Election Dates

Recommended Action

Forward Ordinance 2022-25 to the December 5, 2022 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 2022-25 provides for the date of January 31, 2023, for a Preliminary Election (if required) and March 14, 2023 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 2022-25 also provides for ballot presentation, 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 timeframe 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 2022-25 is necessary prior to the end of the qualifying period on November 21, 2022. If there are not three or more individuals qualified to run for the same Town Commission seat, there will be no need to hold the Preliminary Election in January. After the qualifying period ends, the Ordinance will be updated as necessary based on the number of qualified candidates per seat, prior to second reading and public hearing at the December 5, 2022 Regular Meeting

Staff Recommendation

Forward Ordinance 2022-25 to the December 5, 2022 Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

Attachments

Ordinance 2022-25 (Available in the Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item