

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
FROM: Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk
REPORT DATE: October 2, 2019
MEETING DATE: November 4, 2019
SUBJECT: Ordinance 2019-14, Setting the 2020 General Election Date

Recommended Action

Forward Ordinance 2019-14 to the November 4, 2019 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 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 Town Commission approved placing a Bond referendum to finance the cost of beach maintenance and renourishment projects with the Town on the March 2020 General Election Ballot. The General Election date was established as March 17, 2020, to coincide with the Presidential Preference Primary.

The Charter provides for a Preliminary Election to be held on the last Tuesday of January when three or more individuals qualify to run for office. Ordinance 2019-14 provides for the date of January 28, 2020, if required, due to the time frame for qualifying period and the required notice to the Supervisor of Elections in the event a Preliminary Election is required.

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 2019-14 was drafted for Commission consideration seeking confirmation of the Preliminary and General Municipal Election dates, providing for early voting, ballot presentation, and advertising.

Staff Recommendation

Forward Ordinance 2019-14 to the November 4, 2019 Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

Attachments

Ordinance 2019-14

ORDINANCE 2019-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR MARCH 17, 2020, AS THE GENERAL ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING FOR JANUARY 28, 2020, 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 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 and incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. The election date for the Preliminary Election is hereby set as Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 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 17, 2020, in conjunction with the election schedule established by the Sarasota and Manatee Supervisor of Elections offices.

SECTION 4. Early voting for the General Election shall be conducted at the Offices of the Supervisor of Elections in Manatee and Sarasota Counties, and other such places as designated, 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 1, 3, 5, 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 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 ____ day of _____, 2019.

ADOPTED on second reading and public hearing at a meeting of the Town Commission held the ____ day of _____, 2019.

George L. Spoll, Mayor

ATTEST:

Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk

End of Agenda Item