

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA,  
RELATING TO AMENDMENT OF CITY CHARTER  
REGARDING ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING THE  
ELECTION DAY FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYOR  
TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE  
FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER IN EACH EVEN-  
NUMBERED YEAR; PROVIDING FOR THE ORDERLY  
TRANSITION OF OFFICE RESULTING FROM ELECTION  
DATE CHANGE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND  
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, Florida law provides that a city may change the date of its elections without referendum, regardless of charter provisions to the contrary; and

WHEREAS, low voter turn-out is historically associated with off-cycle elections which do not coincide with a statewide general election; and

WHEREAS, the City incurs extra costs for its off-cycle elections; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to align its municipal election with the statewide general election held the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, in order to align the City's municipal election with the statewide general election, the terms of current officeholders must be extended to provide for the orderly transition of office resulting from the election date change.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION I. AUTHORITY.** The authority for enactment of this Ordinance is Section 100.3605, Florida Statutes, Section 101.75, Florida Statutes, Section 166.021, Florida Statutes, and Article VIII, Section 2(b), Florida Constitution.

**SECTION II AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY CHARTER, ARTICLE V.** Article V, Section 5.01 and is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following provision:

s5.01 - Election Date. The city election shall be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year.

**SECTION III ORDERLY TRANSITION OF OFFICE RESULTING FROM ELECTION DATE CHANGE.** To provide for the orderly transition of office resulting from the election date change set forth above, and as authorized by Section 100.3605, Florida Statutes, the terms of office of each council member and mayor of the City of Bonifay shall be extended to the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November of 2026. It is the intention of this ordinance that a subsequent charter revision be proposed to the electors of the City of Bonifay whereby the terms

of councilmembers and mayor will be revised to four (4) year staggered terms, but existing terms of office of two (2) years as provided in the City charter are not modified by this ordinance.

**SECTION IV CANDIDATE QUALIFYING DATES.** The qualifying dates for election of city council and mayor shall be those proscribed by general law for state elective offices.

**SECTION V. INCORPORATION INTO CODE OF ORDINANCES.** This ordinance shall be incorporated into the City of Bonifay's Code of Ordinances and any section or paragraph number or letter and any heading may be changed or modified as necessary to effectuate the foregoing.

**SECTION VI. SEVERABILITY.** Each separate provision of this ordinance is deemed independent of all other provisions herein if any portion or provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, all other provisions thereof shall remain valid and enforceable.

**SECTION VII. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA, ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.**

CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
By its Mayor, Larry Cook

\_\_\_\_\_  
By Rickey Callahan, City Clerk