

**CITY OF CHIPLEY  
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM**

**ORDINANCE NO. 985**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHIPLEY PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER CHANGING THE ELECTION CYCLES FROM YEARLY TO EVERY TWO YEARS AND THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM TWO (2) YEARS TO FOUR (4) YEARS; EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THOSE COUNCIL MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 2025 BY ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSED CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT THE REGULAR ELECTION IN SEPTEMBER 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, submit a proposed amendment to its charter to the electors of the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Chipley deems it advisable to amend the City Charter to provide: (i) that the terms of office of the city council members be changed from two (2) years to four (4) years; and (ii) that, to implement such amendment, (a) the terms of office of the council members for Wards 1 and 4 and the At-Large council member, whose terms begin on October 2024, shall expire September 2028, and (b) the terms of office of the two council members whose terms are due to expire September 2025 (council members for Wards 2 and 3) shall be extended by one additional year and shall expire September 2026;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF CHIPLEY HEREBY ORDAINS:**

Section 1. Section 2-28 of the Charter of the City of Chipley is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-28 - Elections and terms.

~~The regular election of city council members shall be held each year in the manner provided in chapter 12. Terms of office for council members shall be two years. Three council members shall be elected in every even numbered year and two council members shall be elected in every odd numbered year.~~

~~(Code 1987, § 2-7; Ord. No. 789, § 4, 10-13-1998)~~

(a) Regular elections. The regular election shall be held in the manner provided in chapter 12 each year in which the term of a city council member expires.

(b) The terms of office beginning on October 1, 2024 (council members for Wards 1, 4, and At-Large), shall be four years, and, for transition purposes, the two current council members elected at the regular election in 2023 (council members for Wards 2 and 3) shall have their current terms of office extended by one additional year and such terms shall now expire on September 30, 2026

Section 2. The City Charter amendment proposed by this ordinance shall be submitted to the electors of the City of Chipley at the regular election of September 3, 2024, and shall be deemed adopted upon the favorable vote of a majority of the City electors voting at that time upon the following question:

Referendum Question No. 1  
Charter Amendment – Length of Terms

The Mayor and City Council Members are elected for two-year terms. The proposed Charter amendment would change the term of office from two years to four years. If adopted, the terms beginning October 2024 would expire September 2028, and, for transition purposes, the terms expiring September 2025 would be extended by one year and would expire September 2026.

Shall the Charter amendment be adopted?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

Section 3. In the event of adoption by the electorate as provided herein, the City Clerk shall forthwith incorporate the amendment into the City Charter by preparing a true copy of Section 2-28 and shall file the revised articles by mail with the Florida Department of State.

Section 4. The City Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be published once in the fifth week and once in the third week immediately prior to the regular election on September 3, 2024.

Section 5. If any section, subsection, clause, or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 6. All Charter provisions or parts of Charter provisions, ordinances, and Resolutions, or parts of ordinances and resolutions, in conflict herewith shall be and hereby are repealed.

Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption. The Charter Amendment shall take effect upon approval by a majority of the electors as provided in Section 2 hereof.

INTRODUCED on first reading in the City Council on June 11, 2024.

PASSED after second reading by the City Council on July 9, 2024.

CITY OF CHIPLEY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy L. Andrews, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sherry Snell, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Michelle Blankenship Jordan  
City Attorney