

**CITY OF COLUMBUS
ORDINANCE NO. 814-26**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND RECREATE SECTION 2-31 OF THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS CODE OF ORDINANCES CONCERNING
COMPOSITION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Common Council of the City of Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

1. Section 2-31 Composition, is repealed in its entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

2-31 Composition.

- (1) The City Council shall consist of the Mayor and two council members from each district who shall be elected for two-year terms.
- (2) In the event of a vacancy to a City Council member's seat, as determined by § 17.23 of the Wisconsin Statutes as amended from time to time, the vacant City Council member's seat shall be filled by the members of a City Council using the following procedure:
 - a. Upon receiving notice of a vacant council member seat on the City Council, the Mayor shall make a public announcement of the vacancy at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting. At that time, the Mayor shall also direct the City Clerk to post public notice of the vacancy on the City website.
 - b. The public notice shall state the district in which the vacancy is occurring, and that any resident of the district that has reached voting age has 10 days from the date of the public announcement to notify the City Clerk in writing of his or her intent to seek appointment to the vacant City Council seat.
 - c. At the end of the 10-day period, if there is one applicant for the vacant City Council seat, the applicant shall be invited to the next scheduled Council meeting to discuss the possibility of being appointed to the vacant City Council seat.
 - d. If there is more than 1 applicant for the vacant City Council seat, all applicants shall be invited to the next scheduled Council meeting to make a presentation of not more than 10 minutes to the Council. Each 10-minute presentation shall include a short statement from the applicant and questions from the Council.
 - e. The consideration and possible selection of a member to serve a vacancy will be the last agenda item on the Council agenda for that meeting.
 - f. At the City Council meeting, a member of the City Council shall nominate a person to fill the vacant City Council seat. The nomination shall be seconded by another member of the City Council. After all nominations have been moved and seconded, the members of the City

Council shall vote on the nominations. In the event of a tie, the Mayor shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

- g. If the members of the City Council prefer to use a different method to fill a vacant City Council seat, the Council may suspend the rules pursuant to section 2-52 of the City Code, and then create a separate process for filling a vacant City Council seat.
2. If any portion of this Ordinance or its application on any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any other provision herein or its application shall not be affected.
 3. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication or posting, as required by law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF COLUMBUS

By: _____
Joseph A. Hammer, Mayor

By: _____
Susan L. Caine, Clerk