



## CITY COMMISSION ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

**TITLE:** Ordinance 26-08 (Commission)

**DATE:** May 26, 2026

**DESCRIPTION:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, SUBMITTING TO REFERENDUM AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY AT ARTICLE III, ENTITLED "LEGISLATIVE;" AND IN PARTICULAR AMENDING SECTION 3.10, ENTITLED "VACANCIES, FORFEITURES OF OFFICE, FILLING OF VACANCIES;" PROVIDING FOR THE FILLING OF VACANCIES ON THE CITY COMMISSION BY THE APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED SUCCESSOR BY THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR CITY ELECTION; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 26-08, ADOPTED ON MARCH 24, 2026; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE, WHEN ADOPTED, SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT AND IT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS PROVIDED BY LAW; PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISING OF THE REFERENDUM ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Commissioner Shrouder requests approving Ordinance No. 26-08, as amended on second reading, and that the Commission submit a proposed amendment to Section 3.10 of the City Charter regarding the process for filling vacancies on the City Commission. The ordinance also repeals the prior Ordinance No. 26-08, adopted on March 24, 2026, and replaces it with the amended proposed referendum ordinance. The proposed amendment would revise the process for filling Commission vacancies by requiring the remaining members of the City Commission, by majority vote, to appoint a qualified successor to fill a vacancy.

The ordinance also repeals Ordinance 26-08, adopted on March 24, 2026, in its entirety, and replaces it with the revised referendum ordinance and ballot language.

**BACKGROUND OF ITEM**

The proposed ordinance would submit a Charter amendment to the qualified electors of Cooper City at the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election. The proposed amendment would revise the process for filling Commission vacancies by requiring the remaining members of the City Commission, by majority vote, to appoint a qualified successor to fill a vacancy.

The ordinance also repeals Ordinance No. 26-08, adopted on March 24, 2026, in its entirety, and replaces it with the revised referendum ordinance and ballot language.

**ANALYSIS:**

The proposed Charter amendment would amend Section 3.10 of the City Charter to establish a revised process for filling vacancies on the City Commission. Under the proposed language, when a vacancy occurs for any reason, the remaining members of the Commission would appoint a qualified successor by a majority vote within thirty days of the vacancy.

The proposed amendment further distinguishes between vacancies based on the time remaining in the unexpired term. If two years or less remain in the unexpired term of the vacated seat on the date the vacancy occurs, the appointed successor would serve the remainder of the unexpired term, and no election would be held to fill the vacancy.

If more than two years remain in the unexpired term of the vacated seat, the appointed successor would serve until a successor is qualified and elected at the next regular City election in November of an even-numbered year. The person elected at that election would serve only the remainder of the vacated seat's unexpired term.

The proposed amendment is intended to avoid the cost of special elections while maintaining continuity of representation on the City Commission. The ballot question advises voters that the Charter currently requires special elections to fill certain vacancies and asks whether the Charter should be amended to require the appointment of a qualified successor until the next regular City election in November of even-numbered years, thereby avoiding the cost of special elections.

The proposed ballot title is:

**FILLING CITY COMMISSION VACANCIES AT REGULAR CITY ELECTIONS**

The proposed ballot question is:

**The Charter currently requires special elections to fill certain vacancies on the City Commission. Shall the Charter be amended to require that, when a vacancy occurs, the remaining commission members shall, by majority vote, appoint a qualified successor to fill such vacancy until the next regular City election in November of even-numbered years, thereby avoiding the cost of special elections to fill vacancies?**

**This proposed Charter amendment will save the cost of special elections.**

**YES**

**NO**

If approved by the City Commission, the ordinance will authorize the City Clerk to advertise the referendum election in accordance with the City Code and the Florida Election Code. The proposed Charter amendment will then be submitted to the City of Cooper City's qualified electors for consideration at the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Amended Ordinance 26-08