



Office of the Mayor
City of Hopkinsville

EXECUTIVE ORDER

39-2021

April 6, 2021

EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING A CITIZENS
COMMITTEE TO STUDY NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, The need for the public to have a greater knowledge, broader understanding and an opportunity to express their views on the issue/question of changing our form of elections to non-partisan or keeping our elections as partisan was clearly illustrated in the summer of 2020 when the Hopkinsville City Council initiated action on this issue; and

WHEREAS, It is fair, appropriate and in the best interest of the citizens of Hopkinsville to form a Citizens Committee to study and evaluate this issue/question in a balanced and unbiased manner and provide their findings and conclusions to the citizens of Hopkinsville through the Mayor and City Council of Hopkinsville.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendell A. Lynch, Mayor of the City of Hopkinsville, do hereby establish a Citizens Committee to review partisan/non-partisan elections (The Committee) which is to be comprised of twelve (12) duly appointed citizens/residents of the City of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, said members to be named by subsequent Executive Order, per Hopkinsville Code of Ordinances, Section 31.23. Said Committee shall have the following charge:

- a. To learn and educate the general public in an unbiased manner on the subject of partisan elections vs. non-partisan elections.
- b. Explore the basis for changing the present system.
- c. Clearly articulate the advantages and disadvantages of both systems.
- d. Explore the potential impact on voter participation, if any.
- e. Determine whether or not this framework is under consideration or appropriate in other elections (i.e. local, state or federal elections, including county government, governor, senate, congress, presidency) and explain why or why not.
- f. Study other municipalities that have transitioned to non-partisan and review the before and after impacts.
- g. Compare similar municipalities of our size and diversity.

- h. Determine whether or not the proposed change to non-partisan would disproportionately impact representation of any particular segment of the community (i.e. gender, ethnicity).
- i. Determine whether or not the proposed change to non-partisan would improve voter participation.
- j. Host public meetings/forums as appropriate to allow for feedback and education on the issue.
- k. Travel to other communities and/or invite guests from other communities to Hopkinsville to share data and experiences.
- l. Review the change in the light of any long-term disparate impact that may result on any group.
- m. Engage all available resources in the accomplishment of your charge.
- n. At the conclusion of the process, present a detailed report to the Mayor and Hopkinsville City Council.

Signed on this the _____ Day of April, 2021.

Wendell A. Lynch
Mayor