

RESOLUTION 2025-003

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA URGING THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION FOR MUNICIPAL CLERKS AND EMPLOYEES WHO PERFORM MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WORK OR HAVE ANY PART IN CODE ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS OF A CITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, many municipal staff who perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings that could lead to a criminal prosecution or code enforcement actions are exposed to threats and other acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, municipal clerks often administer elections and some election workers have been targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of materials they are responsible for

WHEREAS, municipal clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances and, occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants; and

WHEREAS, currently public records exemptions in Florida include those for local personnel who either investigate, enforce or otherwise provide a service that can result in contentious interactions when action is taken and municipal clerks and their staffs fall within the need for a window for greater protection; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Association of City Clerks is very concerned for the safety and well-being of the municipal clerks and their staffs who serve the public on a daily basis and are, oftentimes, the first contact of citizens with cities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing and adopting this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

(1). The Town Council of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills hereby adopts the recitals set forth in this Resolution (whereas clauses) as the legislative findings of the Town Council.

(2). The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, hereby urges and encourages the Florida State Legislature to enact legislation to provide a public records

exemption for municipal clerks and employees who perform municipal elections work or have any part in code enforcement functions of a municipality.

(3). The Town Clerk is hereby directed and authorized to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Keith Truenow and Representative Taylor Yarkosky, the Lake County League of Cities, and the Florida League of Cities (FLC).

(4). This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, this 10th day of February, 2025.

**TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS,
FLORIDA**

By: its Town Council

By: _____
Graham Wells, Mayor

Attest:

John Brock, Town Clerk

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

Tom Wilkes Town Attorney

Councilor Jon Arnold	_____yea	_____nay
Councilor Reneé Lannamañ	_____yea	_____nay
Councilor David Miles	_____yea	_____nay
Mayor Pro-Tem Tim Everline	_____yea	_____nay
Mayor Graham Wells	_____yea	_____nay