

STATE OF GEORGIA  
CITY OF JONESBORO  
COUNTY OF CLAYTON

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - \_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VIII OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND AUTHORITIES; TO PROHIBIT SIMULTANEOUS SERVICE WHILE SEEKING ELECTIVE OFFICE; TO DEFINE CANDIDACY; TO PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC VACANCY; AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jonesboro appoints individuals to boards, commissions, and authorities to perform advisory, fiduciary, and quasi-judicial functions on behalf of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, such appointments are a privilege, not a right and require the exercise of independent judgment and impartial decision-making, free from political influence or competing personal interests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council find that public confidence in these bodies depends upon the actual and perceived impartiality of their members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council further find that simultaneous service in an appointed position while seeking elective office creates the appearance and/or opportunity for the misuse of an appointed position for political purposes and is incompatible with the duties of appointed office;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:**

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

*Sec. 2-3XX. — Candidacy and Political Activity of Appointed Members.*

*(a) Applicability.*

*This section applies to all persons appointed by or on behalf of the Mayor and Council to any public board, commission, authority, committee or similar body of the City of Jonesboro.*

*(b) Prohibition on Simultaneous Service.*

*No appointed member shall serve on any board, commission, or authority of the City while such member is a candidate for elective office for any local, state or federal position.*

*(c) Definition of Candidate.*

*For purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed a candidate upon the occurrence of any of the following:*

- (1) Filing of any document required by law to qualify for placement on a ballot;*
- (2) Payment of any qualifying fee or submission of a nominating petition in lieu thereof;*
- (3) Certification by the appropriate election authority that the person will appear on the ballot; or*
- (4) Filing a written declaration stating the person's intent to seek a specified elective office.*

*(d) Vacancy.*

*A member's appointed position shall be deemed vacated by operation of law upon the occurrence of any event described in subsection (c). No further action by the member or Mayor and Council shall be required.*

*(e) Prohibition on Political Activity While Serving.*

*Appointed persons shall be apolitical in the performance of their public duties. No appointed member shall:*

- (1) Use their official title or position in any manner that uses the authority of the office to influence or advance a political campaign;*
- (2) Use City funds, personnel, property, or other resources for campaign or political purposes;*
- (3) Disclose non-public information obtained through service for political advantage;*
- (4) Use any matter pending before the board to advance a political campaign or prospective candidacy;*
- (5) Engage in conduct that creates a reasonable perception that the member cannot exercise independent judgment and impartial decision-making in matters before the board;*
- (6) Engage in political activity that materially interferes with the proper discharge of the member's official responsibilities.*

*(g) Enforcement; Ethics Violation.*

*A violation of this section shall be enforced under the City's ethics ordinance. In addition, and where applicable, a violation shall serve as a ground for removal for cause.*

*(h) Construction.*

*This section establishes conditions of appointed service only and shall not be construed to prohibit any person from seeking elective office or engaging in lawful political speech.*

*(j) Relationship to Existing Provisions.*

*This section supplements existing provisions governing board membership and shall control in the event of a conflict.*

**SECTION 2. Severability.**

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

**SECTION 3. Repealer.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

**SECTION 5. Notice.**

The City Clerk shall provide an electronic copy of this ordinance to each appointed person currently serving.

This \_\_\_\_ day of **May, 2026.**

**CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA**

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Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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LaTonya Nix Wiley, City Attorney