



**CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA COUNCIL**  
**Agenda Item Summary**

**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:**  
05/04/26 Work Session

**Requesting Agency (Initiator):** Administration

**Sponsor(s):** Administration

**Item Title:** Council to consider an Ordinance 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.

**Requested Action:** Recommending Approval

**Requirement for Mayor & Council Action:**

**Is this Item Goal Related?** Yes

**Goals**

- Avoids conflicts between official duties and campaign activity
- Prevents misuse of appointed positions
- Protects the City from claims of bias or unfair decision-making
- Maintains public confidence in boards and authorities

**Summary and Background:** This ordinance sets clear expectations for individuals appointed to City boards, commissions, and authorities. It requires appointed members to step down if they decide to run for elected office and prohibits the use of appointed positions for political purposes.

This ordinance does not prevent anyone from seeking elected office.

Appointed members are expected to exercise independent judgment and impartial decision-making, and this ordinance reinforces that expectation. This is a practical ordinance that:

- Draws a clear line between public service and politics
- Gives staff and the City a clear enforcement framework
- Protects the credibility of City boards and decisions

**Key Points:**

Once a member becomes a “candidate,” their seat is automatically vacated. No resignation, vote or additional action is needed. Clear definition of candidacy using objective events, such as:

- Filing to run
- Paying qualifying fees
- Being certified for the ballot
- Filing a written declaration of intent

**Automatic Vacancy:**

The position becomes vacant immediately upon candidacy.

No resignation is required. No board vote is required. No council action is required.

**The ordinance prohibits:**

- Using an official title or position to support a campaign
- Using City resources for political purposes

- Using non-public information for political advantage
- Using matters before the board to advance a campaign
- Engaging in conduct that calls their impartiality into question

**Enforcement:**

Violations are treated as ethics violations under the City's code. They may also serve as grounds for removal for cause.

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Exhibits Attached:** Ordinance

**Contact Information and Recommendation:** Administration

**FOLLOW-UP APPROVAL ACTION**

<b>Typed Name and Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	
<b>Signature</b>		