



# Town of Johnstown

## TOWN COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS

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**AGENDA DATE:** January 3, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance 2023-265: An Ordinance Submitting To The Registered Electors Of The Town Of Johnstown At The General Municipal Election To Be Held On April 2, 2024, A Charter Amendment Setting Forth The Source Of The Population Count For Councilmember Residency Qualifications And Providing For The Election Of Councilmembers From Three Electoral Districts Rather Than From Two Districts And Four Wards

**ACTION PROPOSED:** Consider Approval of Ordinance 2023-265 on Second Reading

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. Ordinance 2023-265

**PRESENTED BY:** Matt LeCerf, Town Manager

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### **AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:**

Council approved Ordinance 2023-265 on first reading on December 18, 2023.

Proposed for Council's review and consideration is an ordinance that would authorize a ballot measure at the April 2, 2024 election. This ballot measure would propose to clarify and adjust two issues within the Johnstown Home Rule Charter (HRC).

First, currently in the Home Rule Charter, the Town is required to establish a new method for election of Councilmembers upon the Town's population reaching 20,000. There is no clarity within the HRC about which source is to be used to determine the Town's population. The ballot measure would clarify that the decennial census conducted every ten (10) years by the U.S. Census shall be the metric from which to determine the Town's official population and subsequently determine if the election method for Councilmembers will change.

Second, upon reaching the population of 20,000, the HRC requires Councilmembers are to be elected in two districts and four wards. In an effort to provide a cleaner method to elect Councilmembers, the ballot measure would change this method. Instead councilmembers would be elected from three electoral districts – 2 from each district. In either case of the election of Councilmembers for the Town of Johnstown, the Mayor will continue to be elected at-large.

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The adjustments presented provide clarity to the HRC and will help eliminate any confusion on issues related to means and methods for conducting elections. If approved, the HRC would change:

**FROM**

*The Town Council shall consist of six (6) Councilmembers nominated and elected from the Town at large, and a Mayor, who shall be nominated and elected from the Town at large. The Town Council may enact by ordinance for the nomination and election of six (6) Councilmembers from wards and districts; provided, however, the Mayor shall be elected at large. If and/or when the population of the Town reaches twenty thousand (20,000), the Town Council shall provide by ordinance, to be effective at the next general municipal election, for the election of six (6) Councilmembers to be nominated and elected by wards and districts, and a Mayor, who shall be nominated and elected from the Town at large.*

**TO**

*The Town Council shall consist of six (6) Councilmembers nominated and elected from the Town at large, and a Mayor, who shall be nominated and elected from the Town at large. When the population of the Town reaches or exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) based on a decennial census conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Town Council shall provide by ordinance, to be effective at the next general municipal election, for the election of six (6) Councilmembers to be nominated and elected from three districts, with two (2) Councilmembers serving from each district, and a Mayor, who shall be nominated and elected from the Town at large.*

**LEGAL ADVICE:**

The Town Attorney drafted the Ordinance based on feedback from Town Council.

**FINANCIAL ADVICE:**

NA

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Ordinance 2023-265 upon second reading.

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*Reviewed and Approved for Presentation,*



Town Manager

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