

STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: February 18, 2025

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk's Office

TITLE:

Resolution No. 09-2025 – urging the Florida State Legislature to institute a public records exemption for Municipal Clerks and their staff

SUMMARY:

Requesting that the Florida State Legislature institute a public records request exemption for the personal information of current Municipal Clerks and staff who perform municipal election work.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Board of Directors of the Florida Association of City Clerks has expressed concern about personal information of Municipal Clerks and staff being available through public records requests. They have asked that the municipalities in Florida adopt a resolution urging that these employees be added to the list of exemptions for public records requests.

Many municipal staff perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings related to neglect or abuse, or other activities that could lead to criminal prosecution are exposed to threats and other acts of violence.

Municipal clerks often administer elections. Some election workers have been targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of materials they are responsible for. Further, clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances. Occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants.

There are currently 27 public records exemptions in Florida. Of these exemptions, eight are for local personnel who either investigate, enforce or otherwise provide a service that can result in contentious interactions when action is taken. Municipal clerks and their respective staff fall within the window for greater protection.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove Resolution No. 09-2025 urging the Florida State Legislature to institute a public records exemption for Municipal Clerks and their staff

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis – N/A
Resolution 09-2025
FACC email & resolution