

# STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

**AGENDA DATE:** June 6, 2023

**DEPARTMENT:** City Attorney

**TITLE:**

Ordinance No. 13-2023 – First Reading – Ballot language to confirm the current single-member district boundaries and allow for the districts to be amended by ordinance after each decennial census

**SUMMARY:**

On March 8, 2022, the qualified voters of the City approved, by referendum, the changing of the City's at-large voting system to a single-member district voting system. The City is seeking a referendum to allow for the district boundaries to be amended, by ordinance, after each decennial census if required to comply with law.

**BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Section 166.031, Florida Statutes, authorizes the governing body of a municipality to submit proposed amendments to the Charter of the municipality in the form of an ordinance to the electors of the municipality. On March 8, 2022, the qualified voters of the City approved by referendum an amendment to the City's Charter changing the at-large voting system to a single-member district voting system (Ordinance No. 2021-22). To implement the single-member districts and to comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution (14th Amendment), the City Commission contracted with Florida Atlantic University to evaluate the City's four (4) at-large election districts based on apportionment data from the US Census Bureau to present redistricting map alternatives. After multiple public meetings and City Commission meetings, the Commission adopted one of the FAU redistricting maps in Ordinance No. 05-2023. The City wishes to conduct a referendum on the question of whether Section 2 of Article II (election districts) of the Charter of the City of Lake Worth Beach should be amended to confirm the current single-member election district boundaries adopted in Ordinance No. 05-2023 and to provide for the routine review and analysis of the geographical boundaries of the single-member election districts after each decennial census and to amend said districts, by ordinance, to comply with applicable law. This referendum, if adopted, would be held in the City on March 19, 2024. The ballot title will be "Redistricting of Single-Member Election Districts to Comply with Applicable Law." The ballot summary will be as follows: Shall the City of Lake Worth Beach Amend its Charter at Section 2, Article II to confirm the current single-member district boundaries and to allow for the single-member election districts to be amended, by ordinance, after each decennial census to ensure that said districts comply with applicable law?

**MOTION:**

Move to approve/disapprove Ordinance No. 13-2023 on first reading and set the second reading and public hearing for June 20, 2023.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Fiscal Impact Analysis – N/A  
Ordinance No. 13-2023