

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-23 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH TO BE HELD ON MARCH 10, 2026, AS TO WHETHER SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE IV OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH CHARTER SHALL BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR FILLING A PERMANENT VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE AND ADVERTISING OF THE REFERENDUM; PROVIDING REQUISITE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS; PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM CANVASSING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION SHOULD THE REFERENDUM PASS; REPEAL OF CONFLICTING LAWS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, a Charter for the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida (the "City") was created and adopted pursuant to the Constitution and applicable laws of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 166.021, Florida Statutes, the City has the governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable it to conduct municipal government; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 166.021(4), Florida Statutes, the City Charter may be amended through the City's exercise of its authority, including the amendment of those portions of its Charter which require a referendum, provided that a majority of the electors in a referendum affirmatively vote to amend the Charter; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3 of the City's Charter currently provides that during a vacancy in the office of City Manager, the City Commission may designate a competent person to execute the functions of that office; and

WHEREAS, stability in the office of City Manager is vital to the smooth operation of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission deems it to be in the best interests of the City and serving a valid public purpose to conduct a referendum (the "Referendum") on the question of whether Article IV, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Lake Worth Beach be amended to provide that the process to fill a permanent vacancy in the office of City Manager be started no less than 90 days after the vacancy and shall continue in good faith until the office of City Manager is filled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Findings adopted. That the findings of the Commission set forth in the foregoing recitals are hereby adopted as true and correct statements and specifically made a part of this ordinance.

Section 2. Referendum declared. A referendum is hereby called for and shall be held in the City on the 10th day of March 2026, to determine whether or not a majority of the electors voting in the Referendum support the proposed amendment to the City Charter, as shown in Sections 3, 6 and 7 of this ordinance.

Section 3. Ballot title. The ballot title, which is the subject of this Referendum, and by which the proposed Charter Amendment is to be commonly referred to or spoken of, shall be captioned as "Filling a Vacancy in the Office of City Manager."

Section 4. Conduct of Referendum. The City shall determine the polling locations or places in coordination with the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, and all qualified electors of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida who vote in the Referendum shall vote at those designated polling places. The polls shall be opened on the date of the Referendum on the proposed City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida Charter Amendment from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on the same day. Only the duly qualified electors of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida shall be permitted to vote on this Referendum question.

Section 5. Notice and advertising of the Referendum. The City Clerk shall prepare and give notice of the proposed Charter Amendment by causing appropriate notice to be published in accordance with the provisions of Section 100.342, Florida Statutes, which provides for at least one publication each week during the third and fifth weeks preceding the week in which the Referendum to consider the proposed Charter Amendment is to be held. The publications shall be placed on the county's website as provided in Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, and the City's website, an appropriate affidavit of proof that the statutorily required Referendum notices have been duly published, as herein set forth and these two affidavits shall be part of the record of the City Commission.

Section 6. Ballot summary. The ballot summary of the proposed Charter amendment shall be:

Shall Article IV, Section 3 of The City Of Lake Worth Beach Charter be amended to require the process for filling a permanent vacancy in the Office of City Manager be started within 90 days of the vacancy and continue in good faith until the Office of City Manager is filled?

Yes []

No []

Section 7. Charter Amendment. In the event that the majority of electors of the City voting in the Referendum vote affirmatively to amend Article II, Section 3 of the City Charter, then said Article and Section shall be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATIVE

* * *

Sec. 3. City manager vacancy.

During any vacancy in the office of city manager, the city commission may designate any competent person, except the mayor or any member of the city commission, to execute the functions of the office of city manager. The process to fill a permanent vacancy in the office of city manager shall be started within 90 days after the vacancy and shall continue in good faith until the office of city manager is filled.

Section 8. Canvassing. The election returns of the Referendum shall be canvassed in the manner provided by law, and the returns shall be certified to the City Commission, which shall declare the result thereof. Upon canvassing the returns of the Referendum, the result of the Referendum shall be recorded in the minutes of the City Commission in the manner prescribed by law.

Section 9. Severability. If any section or portion of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

Section 10. Codification. Upon the passage of the Referendum, as set out in this ordinance, the Charter amendment set out in Section 7 of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Charter of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida.

Section 11. Repeal of laws in conflict. All ordinances or parts of ordinances and resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, that are in conflict with any provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 12. Effective date. This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after passage.

The passage of this Ordinance on first reading was moved by Commissioner May, seconded by Commissioner Segrich, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Betty Resch	AYE
Vice Mayor Sarah Malega	AYE
Commissioner Christopher McVoy	NAY
Commissioner Mimi May	AYE
Commissioner Anthony Segrich	AYE

The Mayor thereupon declared this Ordinance duly passed on first reading on the 18th day of November 2025.

The passage of this Ordinance on second reading was moved by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Betty Resch
Vice Mayor Sarah Malega
Commissioner Christopher McVoy
Commissioner Mimi May
Commissioner Anthony Segrich

ATTEST:

By: Betty Resch, Mayor

Melissa Ann Coyne, MMC, City Clerk