



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Board of Commissioners  
VIA: Robin Gomez, City Manager  
FROM: Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk  
DATE: October 16, 2023  
RE: A request to change the Candidate Qualifying Period

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### **Background**

The City Manager suggested that the Board of Commissioners to consider changing the Candidate Qualifying Period, which is the first two full weeks in December, excluding the weekends, beginning at Noon on Monday, the first day of the qualifying period and ending at Noon on Friday, the last day of the qualifying period. The change is to the first full week in December, excluding the weekend, beginning at Noon on Monday, the first day of the qualifying period and ending at Noon on Friday, the last day of the qualifying period.

### **City Charter, Section 3.3 Nomination of Board of Commissioners.**

- (A) *Filing.* Every person who shall desire to become a candidate for nomination under the provisions of this Charter to the office of Mayor and District-Commissioner, shall qualify to become such candidate by filing with the City Clerk during the candidate qualifying period held during the first two full weeks in December, excluding weekends, beginning at Noon on Monday, the first day of the qualifying period and ending at Noon on Friday, the last day of the qualifying period. Under no circumstances shall the City Clerk accept any nomination petitions or filing fees after the close of the filing period as stated herein. Every person's application is to have his/her name printed upon the ballot as a candidate for nomination to the office for which he/she aspires, in which application, he/she shall declare from the district he/she is a candidate or so declare if he/she is a candidate for Mayor. All applications shall be accompanied by an affidavit the candidate is an elector and a resident of the City of Madeira Beach, Florida, for one (1) year immediately prior to the date of said application and has been a resident of said district for which he/she declares himself/herself to be a candidate for a period of six (6) months prior to the date of said application. With said application shall be filed a petition which shall indicate prominently the district from which the Petitioner is a candidate, or if he/she be a candidate for Mayor.
- (B) District Commissioners. Should any District Commissioner desire to become a candidate for the office of Mayor, said District Commissioner shall resign his/her office of District Commissioner not less than ten days before the qualifying period for the election in which

he/she desires to become a candidate for Mayor. Provided, however, such compulsory resignation shall not apply to a District Commissioner whose term as commissioner expires at or before the time he/she would take office as Mayor, if elected. The resignation shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk. The vacancy created by such resignation shall be filled as provided in 2.2(C) of said Charter.

- (C) Candidate Petition Forms. Candidates for the office of Mayor and District Commissioner shall submit Candidate Petition Forms. Each candidate may seek or be nominated for election by Candidate Petition Forms signed by qualified voters of the City of Madeira Beach, Florida, not less in number than twenty-five (25). Each signature shall be executed in ink and the form shall indicate the place of the petitioner's residence. All petition forms shall contain the name of the candidate and the office and district number for which the candidate is being nominated.

In the case of a candidate for District-Commissioner, his/her petitions shall be signed by electors within his/her district.

No candidate may seek election to more than one elective City of Madeira Beach, Florida office in any given election.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The estimated cost to advertise the Ordinance for the second reading and public hearing is \$150.00.

### **Recommendation**

If the Board of Commissioners should choose to change the candidate qualifying period the City Attorney can prepare an Ordinance for first reading and public hearing at the November 8, 2023 BOC Regular Meeting for that purpose.

If the Ordinance is approved after the first reading, the Ordinance will be advertised for a second reading and public hearing on December 13, 2023. The deadline for submitting ballot language to the Pinellas County Supervisors of Elections is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

If the voters approve the charter amendment at the March 19, 2024 Municipal Election, it will take effect for the candidate qualifying period beginning in December 2024 for the March 2025 Municipal Election.

### **Attachments:**

City Charter, Section 3.3 Nomination of Board of Commissioners  
Neighboring Cities (City Charter) – Qualifying Period