

ORDINANCE 2026-XX

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH, FLORIDA, SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER RELATING TO THE DATE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND CANDIDATE QUALIFYING PERIODS; AMENDING SECTION 3.3, NOMINATION OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, SUBPARAGRAPH (A), FILING, OF THE CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE CANDIDATE QUALIFYING PERIOD FROM DECEMBER TO JUNE; AMENDING SECTION 3.4, MANNER OF HOLDING ELECTIONS, SUBPARAGRAPH A, OF THE CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER TO COINCIDE WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION; AMENDING SECTION 2.2, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CREATED; QUALIFICATIONS; TERM OF OFFICE; AND VACANCIES, SUBPARAGRAPH (B), QUALIFICATIONS AND TERM OF OFFICE, OF THE CITY CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS, AMENDING SECTION 4.8, INDUCTION OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS INTO OFFICE; MEETINGS, OF THE CITY CHARTER TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS AND INSTALLATION PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSITIONAL TERMS OF OFFICE INCLUDING EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1, COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2, AND MAYOR-COMMISSIONER UNTIL NOVEMBER 2028 AND EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3, AND COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 UNTIL NOVEMBER 2029; PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR BALLOT LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 14.3 of the present Charter of the City of Madeira Beach, Article 8, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution, and Section 166.031, Florida Statutes, charter amendments must be approved by referendum of the electors of the City of Madeira Beach; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter currently provides that municipal elections are held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in March; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter currently establishes the municipal candidate qualifying period during the first two full weeks in December, excluding weekends; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that holding municipal elections in November in conjunction with countywide and statewide general elections may increase voter participation, reduce election administration costs, and improve election efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners further finds that moving the qualifying period to **June** will provide sufficient time for election administration and coordination with the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners further finds that transitional extensions of elected terms are necessary to implement the orderly conversion from a March municipal election cycle to a November municipal election cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to submit the proposed Charter amendments to the voters for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That **Section 3.3, Nomination of Board of Commissioners, Subsection (A),** Filing, of the Charter of the City of Madeira Beach shall be amended to read as follows:

(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~~ **June**, 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.

Section 2. That **Section 3.4, Manner of Holding Elections, Subsection A,** of the Charter of the City of Madeira Beach shall be amended to read as follows:

A. All **Municipal** elections shall be held in the city on the first Tuesday after the ~~second first~~ Monday in ~~March~~ **November**, ~~with the exception of the Presidential Preference Primary Election (every four (4) years) when the city election shall be held on the same day as the Presidential Preference Primary Election,~~ of each year for the purpose of electing successors to elective offices. Elections for Commissioners of District One (1) and Two (2) shall be held in even-numbered years. Elections for Commissioners of Districts Three (3) and Four (4) shall be held in odd-numbered years. The term for the Commissioners of Districts shall be for two (2) years. The term for Mayor-Commissioner shall be for three (3) years allowing the seat to alternate with the Commissioners of Districts.

Section 3. That **Section 2.2, Board of Commissioners Created; Qualifications; Term of Office; and Vacancies, Subparagraph B, Qualifications and Term of Office,** of the Charter of the City of Madeira Beach shall be amended to read as follows:

B. *Qualifications and Term of Office.* The Commission members shall have been qualified electors and residents of the City of Madeira Beach, Florida, for one (1) year immediately prior to their qualifying for election, and in addition, each District-Commissioner shall be a resident of said district in which the candidate seeks to be a candidate for a period of six (6) months prior to the date of said application. The term of office for all District Commissioners shall be for a period of two (2) years. The Mayor may reside at the time of the election anywhere within the City of Madeira Beach, Florida; and the term of office for the Mayor shall be for a period of three (3) years. The terms of all members of the Commission, including the Mayor, will begin at the Board of Commissioners first regular meeting following the election and certification thereof, and shall continue until their successor has been duly elected and installed under this Charter. All vacancies occurring in the Commission between elections shall be filled in accordance with Section 2.2(E) of this Charter.

Section 4. That Section 4.8, Induction of Board of Commissioners into Office; Meetings, of the Charter of the City of Madeira Beach shall be amended to read as follows:

The first meeting of each newly elected member of the Board of Commissioners for induction into office shall be at a Board of Commissioners meeting to be held on or before the last day of the month in which the election was held and certification thereof. The Board of Commissioners may hold such meetings at such times as they may prescribe, but not less frequently than once each month. Meetings of the Board of Commissioners shall be open to the public in accordance with the Florida Statutes.

Section 5. Transitional Terms of Office.

1. In order to implement the transition from March municipal elections to November municipal general elections, the terms of office for Commissioner District 1, Commissioner District 2, and Mayor-Commissioner currently scheduled to expire in March 2028 shall instead expire upon certification of the November 2028 municipal general election results and installation of successors.
2. The offices of Commissioner District 1, Commissioner District 2, and Mayor-Commissioner shall be placed on the ballot for the November 2028 municipal general election.
3. In order to continue the staggered election cycle established by the Charter, the terms of office for Commissioner District 3 and Commissioner District 4 scheduled to expire in March 2029 shall instead expire upon certification of the November 2029 municipal general election results and installation of successors.
4. The offices of Commissioner District 3 and Commissioner District 4 shall be placed on the ballot for the November 2029 municipal general election.
5. Any temporary extension of elected terms required to implement the transition to the November election cycle shall not constitute an additional term for purposes of Charter term limits established in Section 3.5, Consecutive Term Limit, of the Charter.
6. Thereafter, all municipal elections shall occur in November as provided herein.

Section 6. The following measures shall be placed on the Municipal Election Ballot for Tuesday, March 9, 2027, to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the City of Madeira

Beach, Florida, and these amendments shall become effective immediately upon approval by a majority of the electors voting on these referendum questions:

Ballot Question

City of Madeira Beach

No. 1 Charter Amendment

Change Municipal Election Date from March to November

Shall the City of Madeira Beach Charter be amended to change the date of regular municipal elections from March to November so City elections occur in conjunction with the State General Election, thereby potentially increasing voter participation and reducing election administration costs?

- YES
- NO

Ballot Question

City of Madeira Beach

No. 2 Charter Amendment

Change Candidate Qualifying Period from December to June

Shall the City of Madeira Beach Charter be amended to change the municipal candidate qualifying period from the first two full weeks in December, excluding weekends, to the first two full weeks in June, excluding weekends, to align with the revised November municipal **general** election schedule?

- YES
- NO

Ballot Question

City of Madeira Beach

No. 3 Charter Amendment

Extend Terms of Elected Officials to Implement November Elections

Shall the City Charter be amended to temporarily extend:

- the terms of Commissioner District 1, Commissioner District 2, and Mayor-Commissioner until certification of the November 2028 election results;
- the terms of Commissioner District 3 and Commissioner District 4 until certification of the November 2029 election results; and

in order to implement the transition from March municipal elections to November municipal **general** elections?

- YES

- NO

Section 7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption, provided, however, it shall not be effective until such is approved by the electorate at a referendum election thereon to ratify the terms and conditions of this Ordinance. In the event that any such referendum question shall be defeated, then this Ordinance shall be of no further force and effect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH, FLORIDA, THIS _____ day of _____, 2026.

Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clara VanBlargan, MMC, FCPC, FCRM, MSM, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Thomas J. Trask, City Attorney

PASSED ON FIRST READING: _____

PUBLISHED: _____

PASSED ON SECOND READING: _____