

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO. 7380

ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. _____

COUNCIL SPONSOR: AIREY/COOPER

PROVIDED BY: CIVIL DA

INTRODUCED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

ON THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. TAMMANY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, ARTICLE VI, DIVISION 1, PERTAINING TO PARISH BUILDINGS, TO ADD SECTION 2-216 PROHIBITING ANIMALS ON ELECTION DAY IN PARISH BUILDINGS BEING UTILIZED AS POLLING LOCATIONS.

WHEREAS, Parish Government has been advised by the St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court that some voters bring animals with them to the polling locations on election day; and

WHEREAS, Parish Government has also been advised that, on occasion, animals at the polling locations have caused disturbances; and

WHEREAS, Parish Government desires to prevent any activities which may, in any way, interfere with the safety and efficiency of the election process; and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent any such disturbances, an amendment to the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances is necessary, prohibiting animals on election day in Parish buildings being utilized as polling locations.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Article VI, Division 1, pertaining to Parish buildings, be amended to add Section 2-216 as follows:

Sec. 2-216 – Animals at Polling Locations

On election days, animals shall be prohibited in all public buildings owned, operated, or leased by or for Parish Government which are being utilized as a polling location. This prohibition does not apply to service animals, any buildings servicing the Parish’s Department of Animal Services, and as specifically authorized by Parish Government or as otherwise provided by law.

REPEAL: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after adoption.

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____, SECONDED BY: _____

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS ORDINANCE WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023; AND BECOMES ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 23-____.

JAKE AIREY, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK

MICHAEL B. COOPER, PARISH PRESIDENT

Published Introduction: AUGUST 30, 2023

Published Adoption: _____, 2023

Delivered to Parish President: _____, 2023 at _____

Returned to Council Clerk: _____, 2023 at _____

Administrative Comment

September 7, 2023

Civil Division ADA

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. TAMMANY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, ARTICLE VI, DIVISION 1, PERTAINING TO PARISH BUILDINGS, TO ADD SECTION 2-216 PROHIBITING ANIMALS ON ELECTION DAY IN PARISH BUILDINGS BEING UTILIZED AS POLLING LOCATIONS.

The Clerk of Court has reported disruptions to polling locations as a result of some citizens bringing non-service animals to polling locations, and has requested Parish Government's assistance. This ordinance seeks to clarify that only service animals are permitted in parish buildings that are being used as polling places on election days.