

COMMISSIONERS' ORDINANCE NO. O-xx-2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 30.07 OF THE COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLED "ELECTION OF CITY OFFICERS", TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO A MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM.

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WHEREAS, the City of Covington currently utilizes the "City Manager" form of government; and

WHEREAS, in the November 2024 election cycle, a majority (61%) of City of Covington residents voted to adopt the "Mayor-Council" form of government, which will go into effect January 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the City government established a "Committee on Form of Government Transition" composed of City officials, employees, residents and business owners to guide the City of Covington in implementing the transition from a "City Manager" form of government to a "Mayor-Council" form of government; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Form of Government Transition has researched best practices and case studies from other cities that have successfully implemented a Mayor-Council form; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Form of Government Transition has engaged with Covington residents, businesses, and community stakeholders to review and incorporate their perspectives; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Form of Government Transition has published an initial progress report which sets forth recommendations regarding the size of the future city council, the method in which legislative elections should be conducted, and the need to retain non-partisan elections.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1

Section § 30.07 of the Covington Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 30.07 ELECTION OF CITY OFFICERS.

(A) Pursuant to KRS 83A.150 and 83A.030, the elected officers of the city shall consist of a Mayor and four City Commissioners, which together shall be known as the Board of

Commissioners. **Beginning January 1, 2027, pursuant to KRS 83A.150 and 83A.030, the elected officers of the city shall consist of an elected executive, called the Mayor, and an elected legislative body, called the City Council, comprised of six (6) City Councilmembers.**

(B) Pursuant to the authority granted to the city by KRS 83A.050(1), the Board of Commissioners, **and beginning on January 1, 2027, the City Council,** does hereby prescribe that the election of city officers shall be under non-partisan city election laws as provided in KRS 83A.045, 83A.170, 83A.175 and 83A.047. The city reconfirms, reiterates and readopts the non-partisan method authorized by KRS Ch. 83A for the election of city officers.

(C) No person shall be elected to city office without being nominated at a non-partisan primary as provided in KRS 83A.170, except when no primary election is required pursuant to KRS 83A.170(6).

(D) City officers shall be elected at large.

(E) Beginning January 1, 2029, the Mayor shall receive an annual salary equal to the maximum amount permitted under state law as proscribed by the Department of Local Government. The Mayor shall be eligible for participation in all healthcare and retirement plan options consistent with or similar in value to those offered to full-time employees. The Mayor shall have access to a city owned laptop, mobile phone, and vehicle (or stipend).

(F) Beginning January 1, 2027, City Councilmembers shall receive an annual salary of \$17,787.15. City Councilmembers shall have access to a city owned laptop and mobile phone. City Councilmembers are not eligible for and will not receive healthcare and retirement benefits.

(1984 Code, § 30.10) (Ord. O-25-14, passed 10-21-2014)

Section 2

The provisions of this chapter are severable. If any section, clause, sentence, part, or provision of this chapter shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect, impair, or invalidate any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts or provisions of this chapter. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Commissioners that this chapter would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional section, clause, sentence, part, or provision had not been included herein.

Section 3

That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Passed: _____, 2025 (Second Reading)

_____, 2025 (First Reading)