

ORDINANCE NO. 527

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROPOSING A NEW CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR GENERAL POWERS; PROVIDING CORPORATE BOUNDARIES; PROVIDING FOR A MAYOR-COMMISSIONER FORM OF GOVERNMENT; SPECIFYING THE SCOPE OF AUTHORITY FOR THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOUR YEAR TERMS OF OFFICE BEGINNING WITH THE ELECTION IN 2016; EXTENDING THE CURRENT TERMS OF OFFICE FOR THE MAYOR AND THE COMMISSIONERS FROM WARDS THREE AND FOUR BY ONE YEAR IN ORDER TO TRANSITION TO BIENNIAL ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN ELECTIONS PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPOINTED CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR AN APPOINTED FINANCE DIRECTOR; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT PROCESS AND OTHER GENERAL PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM THEREON; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida has determined and does hereby find that there is a need to update its City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has held various meetings, workshops and public forums to discuss and receive public comment on proposed revisions and updates to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida has determined and does hereby find that it is in the best interest of the City of Springfield, and its citizens to submit a new Charter to the electors of the City for their consideration and approval before becoming effective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of Springfield calls for the holding of a referendum of the electors of the City of Springfield on April 19, 2016, to consider and vote for or against the approval of the proposed new City Charter as approved by the City Commission on January 4, 2016, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. The Supervisor of Elections of Bay County, Florida, is hereby appointed as the election officer for the election to be held on April 19, 2016, by ballot in accordance with Florida Statutes. The City of Springfield shall bear all related costs of said ballot.

SECTION 3. The language to appear on the ballot of the referendum on the proposed new City Charter shall be:

QUESTION

**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA
CHARTER REPLACEMENT QUESTION**

Shall the City of Springfield replace its current Charter with a new Charter providing:

- A Mayor-Commissioner form of government with a Mayor and four Commissioners elected by the electorate of the City;
- Elections every other year;
- Four year terms of office for the mayor and city commissioners elected in 2016 and thereafter;
- Extending the terms of the current Mayor and Commissioners for Wards 3 and 4 by one year in order to transition to biennial elections;
- An appointed City Clerk, Finance Director, City Attorney, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Public Works Director;
- An elections process following the Florida Election Code;
- Other administrative revisions as described in Ordinance 527?

YES _____ for Approval

NO _____ for Rejection


SECTION 4. The appropriate officials shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation of the City the notices of the referendum required by Florida law.

SECTION 5. It is declared to be the intent of the City Commission that, if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 6. Any Ordinance or part thereof in conflict with this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

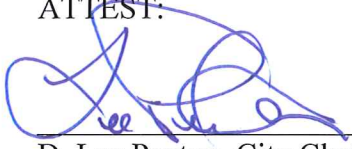
SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage, but any amendment to the City Charter proposed by this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon approval of the majority of the electors of the City voting in the next general election or special election called for such purpose; and if the electors shall not approve any amendment proposed by this Ordinance at such referendum, then the proposal not approved shall be void and of no force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida, this 4th of January, 2016.



Mayor Ralph Hammond

ATTEST:



D. Lee Penton, City Clerk