

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA PURSUANT TO SEC. 166.031, FLORIDA STATUTES AND SECTION 8.01 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 1. OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-13 TO REVISE THE REFERENDUM QUESTION TO APPEAR ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT TO UPDATE THE YEAR THE MAYOR'S TERM WILL CHANGE FROM A TWO (2) YEAR TERM TO A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM FROM THE YEAR 2026 TO THE YEAR 2028, DUE TO THE DATE CHANGE FOR THE REFERENDUM FROM THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION TO THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Section 166.031, Florida Statutes and Section 8.01 of the Charter of the City of Key West, Florida provides the City Commission with the authority to propose, by ordinance, a Charter amendment; and

WHEREAS, the City shall follow Section 100.342, Florida Statutes concerning notice of a referendum and Section 101.161, Florida Statutes concerning preparation of the referendum ballot; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.01(a) of the City's Charter limits the term of the Mayor to two (2) years; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.01(b) of the City's Charter limits the service of the Mayor to eight (8) years; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2025 the City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 25-11 to amend Sections 3.01(a) and (b) of the City Charter of the City of Key West, Florida as follows:

"3.01- City commission and mayor; election, term; term limits.

(a) There shall be a city commission with all legislative powers of the city vested therein. The city commission shall consist of seven (7) commissioners, six (6) of whom shall be elected from single member districts numbered I, II, III, IV, V and VI. The mayor shall be elected by the people at large for a term of ~~two (2)~~ four (4) years. Commissioners from districts numbered I, II, III, IV, V and VI shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.

(b) ~~No person~~ The currently serving Mayor, as of December 30, 2026 shall serve more than a total of ~~eight~~ twelve (12) years in the position of mayor. No person shall serve more than a total of twelve years in the position of city commissioner. No previous term, or term in progress as of the effective date of this provision, shall be counted toward the limitations contained herein. If the term limit occurs during a term in office, the person holding the office may complete the term.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 25-11 further directed the Clerk to present these amendments to the City Charter to the voters of Key West, Florida on the Special Election ballot of November 4, 2025, pursuant to Sec. 101.161, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2025, the City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 25-13 changing the election date for the proposed amendments to Sec. 3.01(a) and (b) of the City Charter to be placed for referendum on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City Commission's adoption of City Ordinance No. 25-13 changing the proposed referendum from the Special Election on November 4, 2025 to the General Election Ballot on November 3, 2026, the year the Mayor's term would change from two (2) years to four (4) years needs to be revised accordingly in the ballot question changing the year the Mayor's term would change from the year 2026 to the year 2028; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Commission to revise the question to appear on the General Election Ballot for November 3, 2026 to read as follows; and

"Referendum - Amending Sec.3.01(a) of the City Charter to increase the term of Mayor from two years to four years in ~~2026~~ 2028 ~~and to increase the limit of service to twelve years for future Mayors of the City of Key West.~~" The question appearing on the ballot shall be worded as follows:

Should the City Charter be amended to increase the term of Mayor from two years to four years?

\_\_\_\_\_  
YES

\_\_\_\_\_  
NO"

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.: That an amendment to Section 3.01(a) of the Charter of the City of Key West, Florida shall hereby be presented as a referendum to the voters of the City of Key West. The question appearing on the ballot shall have the following title:

"Referendum - Amending Sec.3.01(a) of the City Charter to increase the term of Mayor from two years to four years in ~~2026~~ 2028 ~~and to increase the limit of service to twelve years for future Mayors of the City of Key West.~~" The question appearing on the ballot shall be worded as follows:

Should the City Charter be amended to increase the term of Mayor from two years to four years?

\_\_\_\_\_  
YES

\_\_\_\_\_  
NO"

Section 2: The City Clerk is hereby authorized and instructed to take all necessary and proper action to place the referendum question set forth in Section 1. (above) on the General Election ballot of November 3, 2026 and to provide notice of the referendum election as provided by law.

Section 3: If any section, provision, clause, phrase or application of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall be construed as reasonable and necessary to achieve the lawful purposes of this Ordinance.

Section 4: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of said City in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby superseded to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5: This Ordinance shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the presiding officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Read and passed on first reading by the City Commission at a meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Read and passed on final reading by the City Commission at a meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Filed with the Clerk on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Mayor Danise Henriquez	_____
Vice Mayor Donald "Donie" Lee	_____
Commissioner Lissette Carey	_____
Commissioner Aaron Castillo	_____
Commissioner Monica Haskell	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Greg Veliz	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
DANISE HENRIQUEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KERI O'BRIEN, City Clerk