

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

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 8.01 OF THE KEY WEST CHARTER PROPOSING THAT SECTION 3.01(A) OF THE KEY WEST CHARTER BE AMENDED TO CHANGE THE TERM OF MAYOR FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR YEARS; PROPOSING THAT SECTION 3.01(B) OF THE KEY WEST CHARTER BE AMENDED TO AMEND THE TERM LIMITS FOR FUTURE MAYORS OF THE CITY COMMISSION; AMENDING THE ELECTION DATE FROM 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION TO 2026 GENERAL ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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

WHEREAS, section 3.01(a) of the City Charter for the City of Key West is a provision limiting the term of Mayor to two years, and;

WHEREAS, section 3.01(b) of the City Charter for the City of Key West is a provision limiting the service of Mayor

to eight years, and;

WHEREAS, The City Charter and District Boundary Committee voted in 2022 to make a recommendation that Section 3.01 of the city charter be amended increase the term of mayor from two years to four years and to eliminate the term limits in Sec. 3.01(b) as it applies to future members of the City Commission, and;

WHEREAS, according to the Florida League of Cities, a survey was conducted in 2006 that showed that the majority of Florida cities have a term of 4 years for Mayor, and;

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to amend the election date for the proposed referendum from the special election ballot on November 4, 2025, to the general election ballot of November 3, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF KEY WEST,  
FLORIDA:**

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

shall have the following title: "Referendum - Amending Sec. 3.01 of the city charter to increase the term of Mayor from two years to four years in 2026 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: That an amendment to Key West Charter section 3.01(b) shall hereby be presented as a referendum to the voters of Key West. The question appearing on the ballot shall have the following title: "Referendum - Amending Sec. 3.01(b) of the city charter to increase the limit of service from eight years 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 limit of service for Mayor from eight years to twelve years?"

\_\_\_\_\_  
YES

\_\_\_\_\_  
NO

Section 3: In the event of the passage of the proposed Charter amendment set forth in sections 1&2, above, Section 3.01 of the Key West Charter shall be amended as follows:

Sec. 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

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\*(Coding: Added language is underlined; deleted language is ~~struck through~~ for first reading. Added language is double underlined; deleted language is ~~double struck through~~ for second reading.

elected by the people at large for a term of 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, 202~~6~~8 shall serve no more than a total of ~~eight~~ twelve 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.

Section 3: 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 ~~Special~~ General Election ballot of ~~November 4, 2025~~ November 3, 2026, and to provide notice of the referendum election as provided by law.

Section 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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.

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Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting  
held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the  
Commission on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Filed with the Clerk on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Mayor Teri Danise Henriquez	_____
Vice Mayor Lissette Carey	_____
Commissioner Aaron Castillo	_____
Commissioner Monica Haskell	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Donald "Donie" Lee	_____

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KERI O'BRIEN, CITY CLERK