

LEON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 26-⁰⁷

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE CHARTER PREAMBLE TO REFLECT THE ESTEEMED HUMANITY OF ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS; PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT QUESTION TO BE POSED TO THE LEON COUNTY ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING FOR THE BALLOT QUESTION FORM; PROVIDING FOR FURTHER AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY OF ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY VOTING ON THE REFERENDUM.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to enact an ordinance amending the Preamble of the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida; and

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. Amendment to Charter.

The Preamble of the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. HOME RULE CHARTER

The proposed Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, shall read as follows: PREAMBLE

We, the citizens of Leon County, Florida, united in the belief that governmental decisions affecting local interests should be made locally, rather than by the State, and that County government should be reflective of the people of the County and should serve them in achieving a more responsive and efficient form of government, hereby affirm the esteemed humanity of all residents of Leon County. We recognize in every person a shared dignity, not granted by government, but inherent and deserving of consideration in our public affairs. ~~and~~ In order to empower the people of this County to make

changes in their own government, we do ordain and establish this Home Rule Charter for Leon County, Florida.

Section 2. Ballot Question to be Presented to Electorate.

The proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, shall be presented to the qualified Leon County electorate by placing the question of whether to adopt the same on the ballot at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026.

Section 3. Ballot Question Form.

The question on the ballot shall be substantially in the following form:

**AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY AS PROPOSED BY
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Question

Shall the Preamble of the Leon County Home Rule Charter be amended to reflect the esteemed humanity of all residents by affirming shared dignity that is inherent and deserving of consideration in public affairs, while preserving the Charter's existing framework for local self-governance and citizen empowerment?

Yes for Approval _____

No for Rejection _____

Section 4. Further Authorization.

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, is authorized to adopt all ordinances and take all actions necessary in order for this Charter Amendment referendum to be properly placed on the ballot for the general election of November 3, 2026. Said referendum shall be conducted according to the requirements of law governing referendum elections in the State of Florida.

Section 5. Severability.

If any word, phrase, clause, section, or portion of this Ordinance is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon being filed with the Florida Department of State, but shall be of no further force or effect if the proposed Charter Amendment is not duly approved at the November 3, 2026, General Election. The amendment to the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, as proposed by this Ordinance, shall become effective January 1, 2027, if the Charter Amendment is approved by a “yes” vote by a majority of those duly qualified electors voting on the question posed at the November 3, 2026 referendum.

DONE, ADOPTED, AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this 9th day of June, 2026.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

Signed by:

 By: 648A6D1B8D6D412...
 Christian Caban, Chairman
 Board of County Commissioners

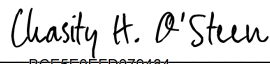
ATTESTED BY:
 Gwen Knight, Clerk of Court
 & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

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Signed by:


APPROVED AS TO FORM:
 Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
 Leon County Attorney's Office

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