

## ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-05

### CHARTER CHANGES

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LEE, FLORIDA CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM QUESTION TO BE PLACED BEFORE THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF LEE AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING A CHARTER REFERENDUM QUESTIONS DETERMINING WHETHER TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER FOR THE TOWN OF LEE; PROVIDING FOR THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED CHARTER FOR THE TOWN OF LEE; PROVIDING FOR REQUISITE BALLOT LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 4.01 of the existing Charter of the Town of Lee ("Charter") provides that the provisions of the Charter or amendments thereto may be amended as provided by Chapter 166, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Statute 166.031 provides that a governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, submit to the electors proposed amendments to its charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Lee desires to adopt an updated charter to modify and simplify the same, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has reviewed the Charter and considered the recommendations of Town Staff, legal counsel, and the public and determined that the qualified electors of the Town should be given an opportunity to consider the recommended charter revision and the best manner in which to bring those recommendations to the qualified electors of the Town was in the form of a referendum question; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council indicated a desire to submit a referendum question to the qualified voters that, if approved, would amend the current Charter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LEE, FLORIDA, as follows:**

**Section 1.** The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and they are made a specific part of this Ordinance.

**Section 2.** A referendum of the qualified electors of the Town of Lee is hereby called to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the Town's voters the referendum question, as more particularly set forth below, as to whether the existing Charter should be amended to reflect any or all of the proposed change.

**Section 3.** If any referendum is approved by the qualified electors of the Town, the Charter shall be amended to reflect the charter amendment outlined in such referendum. The full text of the of the proposed Charter amendment (in the format of the full charter) is set forth herein as "Exhibit A"

**Section 4.** The full text of the existing Charter is set forth herein at "Exhibit B." All Exhibits together with this ordinance shall be available for inspection or copying at Town Hall.

**Section 5.** The question pertaining to the adoption of the proposed Charter amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the Town in substantially the following form which shall be printed on the ballot:

**No. 1  
Charter Amendment**

**Limiting Candidates in Town elections to Town residents of a year or more**

Currently, those eligible to hold the office of Town Council are not required to be residents of the Town of Lee while running for office. Shall the Charter be amended to add the requirement that any candidates for Town Council must also be a resident in the Town of Lee for at least one year prior to the last day of the qualifying period to be eligible for said office, and must maintain residency during their tenure?

Yes

No

**Section 6. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are, to the extent they conflict with this Ordinance, repealed.

**Section 7. PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY**

It is the declared intent of the Town of Lee Town Council that, if any section, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, void, or inoperative by a court or agency of competent jurisdiction, such holding of invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance and the remainder of this Ordinance, after the exclusion of such part or parts, shall be deemed to be valid.

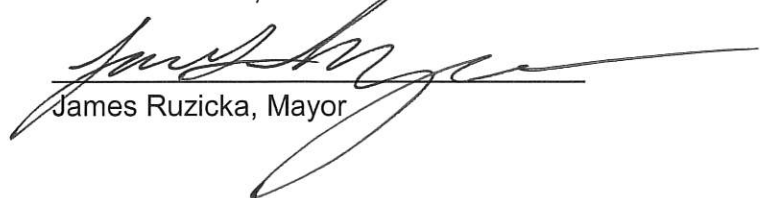
**Section 8. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**FIRST READING**, was on the 4th day of November, 2025.

**ON SECOND READING**, passed by a vote of 5 to 5 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025.

TOWN OF LEE, FLORIDA

  
James Ruzicka, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Sona Hayslett, Town Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

  
Rhett Bullard, Town Attorney