

REFERENDUM ORDINANCE NO. _____

A REFERENDUM ORDINANCE TO AMEND, PURSUANT TO [ARTICLE XI, § 9](#) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE (HOME RULE AMENDMENT), PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, THE SAME BEING CHAPTER 11 OF THE ACTS OF 1879, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TO REPEAL ALL PROVISIONS OF THE CITY’S CHARTER INCONSISTENT WITH THIS AMENDMENT

Whereas, the Tennessee Code Annotated § 2-13-208, provides that municipal elections shall be nonpartisan unless the municipality's charter specifically permits partisan elections. When a municipality's charter allows partisan elections, political parties may nominate candidates for municipal office by using the primary election provisions of Title 2 of Tennessee Code Annotated (the “Election Code”) or as otherwise authorized by the rules of the party; and

Whereas, it is deemed advisable and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Memphis that the City of Memphis Charter be amended by ordinance as provided by [Article XI, Section 9](#) of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee (Home Rule Amendment) for the purpose of permitting partisan elections for the Offices of the Mayor and Memphis City Council Members.

[Section 1](#). Proposed Amendment Authorized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS , TENNESEE, That pursuant to Article XI, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, as amended, a proposal for amending the Charter of the City, as set forth in this ordinance, shall be published and submitted by the City of Memphis to its qualified voters at the first state general election, which shall be held in the City of Memphis on November 8, 2022, and which shall be held at least sixty (60) days after such publication.

[Section 2](#). Publication of Home Rule Amendment as required by Tennessee Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the Comptroller is hereby directed to cause this Ordinance, as finally adopted, to be published pursuant to provisions of Article XI, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee immediately after adoption by the City Council.

[Section 3](#). Certification and Delivery to Election Commission.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That upon the adoption of this Ordinance becoming effective as required by law, the Comptroller of the City of Memphis shall immediately certify adoption of this Ordinance and deliver a certified copy thereof to the Shelby County Election Commission in charge of holding the general State election on November 8, 2022, and shall request that the proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the City of Memphis, in the preferred form set forth in this Ordinance, be placed on the ballot.

Section 4. Proposal and preference.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the City Council does hereby adopt the suggested proposal and form of question to be placed on the ballot for a referendum vote on a Home Rule Amendment to the Charter of the City of Memphis in a State General election to be held on the 8th day of November, 2022, which question shall read as follows:

“ Shall the Charter of the City of Memphis be amended to read:

‘ Elections for the Offices of Mayor and Memphis City Council Members shall be partisan, such that political parties, including but not limited to the Democratic and Republican parties, may nominate candidates for the offices of Mayor and Memphis City Council Members by using the primary election provisions of the Tennessee Election Code or as otherwise authorized by the rules of the party. All provisions of the Charter that are inconsistent with this charter amendment are repealed.’ ?

I, Shirley Ford, Director of Finance for the City of Memphis do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment shall have no impact on the annual revenues and expenditures of the City.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	(YES) _____
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	(NO) _____

Section 5. Effective Date of Charter Amendment.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect for the purposes set forth herein sixty (60) days after approval by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon in an election to be held on the 8th day of November, 2022, the public welfare, requiring it.

Section 6. Certification of Results.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the Shelby County Election Commission certify the result of said election on the referendum question to the Comptroller of the City of Memphis, who shall see that said result is made a part of the Minutes of the Council of the City of Memphis.

Section 7. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to appropriate and expend out of general revenues of the City of Memphis, Tennessee, a sum sufficient to pay a pro-rata cost attributable to the inclusion of the proposed amendment on the ballot for the election to be held on the 8th day of November, 2022, if any.

Section 8. Nonconflicting - Conflicting Laws.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That from and after the effective date of this Home Rule Amendment, all laws constituting the present Charter of the City of Memphis in conflict with the subject matter of this amendatory Home Rule Ordinance shall be immediately annulled, vacated, and repealed and all laws constituting the present Charter of the City of Memphis not in conflict

with this amendatory Home Rule Ordinance, be and the same are here continued in full force and effect.

Section 9. Severability.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any clause, section, paragraph, sentence or part of this Ordinance shall be held or declared to be unconstitutional and void, it shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance, it being hereby declared to be the legislative intent to have passed the remainder of this Ordinance notwithstanding the parts so held to be invalid, if any.

Section 10. Publication as Required by the City Charter.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall also be published by the Comptroller at the same time and manner as required by the City's Charter for all ordinances adopted by the City Council.

Section 11. Enactment of Referendum Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the adoption of this Referendum Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date it shall have passed by the Council, signed by the Chairman of the Council, certified and delivered to the Office of the Mayor in writing by the Comptroller, and become effective as otherwise provided by law.

SPONSOR:

Councilman Martavius Jones

**JAMITA SWEARGEN
CHAIRWOMAN**