

**CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS
ORDINANCE NUMBER O-2026-11**

2026 AUG 11 1:00 PM
CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS
CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL
BY _____

AN ORDINANCE REFERRED TO THE VOTERS AND TO BE PLACED ON THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT, THE ISSUE OF CHANGING THE TERM LENGTHS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM TWO (2) YEARS TO FOUR (4) YEARS IN THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS, beginning with the 2028 General Election, shall be elected to terms of four (4) years in accordance with procedures set forth in ACA § (a)(2)(B).

WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO §14-43-312 (THE "AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION"), by ordinance, referred to and approved by vote of the electors of the City of Ward, Arkansas, the City may choose to elect council members from each ward to four-year staggered terms; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WARD, THAT:

SECTION 1: There is hereby called a question to be submitted to all duly qualified electors within the City of Ward, Arkansas, the issue of Four (4) year terms for the elected position of Council Member at the November 3, 2026 General Election

SECTION 2: The question of allowing Four (4) year terms for Council Member shall be placed on the ballot for the election in substantially the following form:

**PURSUANT TO ACA §14-43-312, ARE YOU IN FAVOR
OF FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED
WITHIN THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS?**

- **FOR** adoption of Ordinance O-2026-11 setting forth four (4) year terms for the position of Council Member.
- **AGAINST** adoption of Ordinance O-2026-11 setting forth four (4) year terms for the position of Council Member.

SECTION 3: In approval of such, it is mandated by ACA §14-43-312 that Council Members representing Position one (1) from each Voting Ward be elected to Four (4) year terms in the General Election of 2028, and Council Members in Position Two (2) from each Voting Ward be elected to a Two (2) year term in 2028. In the General Election of 2030, those representing Position Two (2) from each Voting Ward will be elected to Four (4) year terms, resulting in staggered terms for each Voting Ward with One (1) Council Member being elected to a Four (4) year term every Two (2) years from each Voting Ward.

SECTION 4: The election shall be held and conducted, the vote canvassed, and the results declared under the law and in the manner now provided for municipal elections, and only qualified electors of the City shall have the right to vote at the election.

SECTION 5: The City Clerk is authorized and directed to give notice of the election by one publication in a newspaper have general circulation within the City. Publication shall be made not less than Ten (10) days prior to the election. After said election, results of the elections shall be proclaimed by the Mayor,

and his Proclamation shall be published one (1) time in a newspaper published in the City and having a general circulation therein, which Proclamation shall advise that the results, as proclaimed, shall be conclusive unless attacked in the courts within (30) days after the date of publication.

SECTION 6: A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be given to the Lonoke County Board of Election Commissioners and the Secretary of State so that the necessary election officials and supplies may be provided. A certified copy of this Ordinance shall also be provided to other County and State officials for review as necessary.

SECTION 7: The Mayor and City Clerk, for and on behalf of the City, are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary to call and hold the election as provided herein and, if the measure is approved by the electors, to notify the Secretary of State and Lonoke County Clerk with the terms of the election and to perform all acts of whatever nature necessary to carry out the authority conferred by this Ordinance.

SECTION 8 – SEVERABILITY: If, for any reason, any portion or portions of this ordinance shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall in no way affect the remaining portions.

SECTION 9 – EMERGENCY CLAUSE: To ensure the voter of Ward have an opportunity to vote on this matter at the November 2026 General Election, the council has determined there is a need to declare an emergency. As such, this Ordinance is hereby in effect upon passage.

SECTION 10 – CODIFICATION: This Ordinance shall be codified in the Ward Municipal Code and the sections may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intention.

SAID ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED ON 8-4-2020.

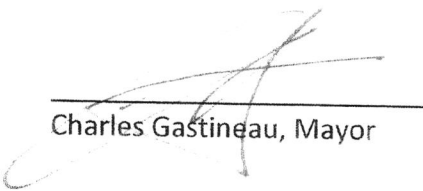
Boles A, Chapman Yes, Hall Yes, Hefner Yes, McMinn Yes, Ruble A

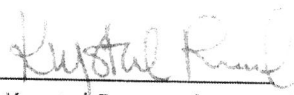
YEAS: 4 NAYS: 2

Mayor (if needed) _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Charles Gastineau, Mayor


Krystal Rummel, City Clerk

