City of Boynton Beach
Agenda Item Request Form

Meeting Date: 11/18/2025

Proposed Ordinance No. 25-038- Second Reading, An Ordinance of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, Submitting to Referendum Amendments to the City Charter; Amending Section 3 to Require Continuous Residence within the City for at Least One (1) Year Prior to Filing to Run for Office; Providing for a Notice of an Advertisement of the Referendum Election to be Published in Accordance with the State of Florida Election Code; Providing that this Ordinance, when Adopted, Shall be Submitted to the Qualified Electors of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida, on the March 2026 General Municipal Election Ballot and Shall Become Effective as Provided by Law; Providing for Conflicts, Severability, and an Effective Date.

Requested Action: Staff recommends approval of Proposed Ordinance No. 25-038, at second reading.

Explanation of Request:

The Charter Review Committee (the "Committee") was established by Resolution No. R25-195 of the City Commission of the City of Boynton Beach, Florida. This resolution authorized the formation of a five-member advisory committee to review and propose amendments to the City Charter. Members were appointed individually by the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners, representing a cross-section of professional experience and civic engagement.

The Committee was charged with:

1. Reviewing the existing City Charter;
2. Considering proposed amendments prepared by the City Attorney's Office; and
3. Recommending any additional modifications necessary to improve the Charter's clarity, function, and responsiveness to the public interest.

The Committee met regularly from August through October 2025 and received staff assistance from the City Attorney's Office and City Clerk's Office. All meetings were publicly noticed and conducted in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Law.

Based on its review, the Committee recommends adoption of the following proposed charter amendment:

Section 3 -- Candidate Qualifications and Residency Requirements

This amendment revises Section 3 (Composition, Election, Terms, Vacancies) of the City Charter to require that candidates for Mayor and City Commissioner must have resided continuously within the City of Boynton Beach for at least one (1) year prior to filing for office.

The amendment:

- Clarifies candidate qualifications by explicitly requiring continuous residency within the City for a minimum of one year before qualifying to run;
- Ensures that candidates for district seats must also have resided continuously within their respective districts for at least one year prior to filing;
- Affirms age and elector requirements, maintaining that all candidates must be at least 21 years of age and qualified electors of the City;
- Reorganizes and modernizes section language for consistency and readability; and
- Reinforces accountability and community connection, ensuring that individuals seeking office have a sustained and genuine commitment to Boynton Beach and its neighborhoods.

In practical effect, this amendment codifies the City's expectation that elected officials should have meaningful, ongoing ties to the community they serve, while maintaining consistency with constitutional standards for candidate qualifications.

How will this affect city programs or services? None.

Budgeted Item: Yes

Account Line Item and Description: None.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Attachments:
Ord 25-038 Charter_Section_3_-_Final.docx
Agenda Item 3918-2025 Business Impact Statement - Charter Section 3.docx
Agenda Items 3917-3921 Charter Amendment Ordinances - Nov 4 Agenda.pptx