

ORDINANCE

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: October 29, 2025

CALENDAR NO. 35,296

NO. _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL

AN ORDINANCE to call an election on November 3, 2026, at which the electors of the City of New Orleans will be asked to approve an amendment to Home Rule Charter Section 6-103, to add provisions intended to ensure that spending remains consistent with the approved annual operating budget, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

1 **SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEREBY**
2 **ORDAINS**, That an election is hereby called, in conformity with Section 9-202 of the Home Rule
3 Charter of the City of New Orleans and Article VI, Section 4 of the Louisiana Constitution of
4 1974, at which election there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Orleans, for
5 their approval or rejection, a proposal to amend Section 6-103 of the Home Rule Charter of the
6 City of New Orleans, to prohibit any allotment and expenditure of City moneys from exceeding
7 the amount allocated in the approved annual operating budget and to require monthly reports to
8 the City Council so that the Council monitors expenditures to ensure they remain in line with the
9 approved budget.

1 **SECTION 2.** That said election shall be held on November 3, 2026, between the hours of
2 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. under the General Election Laws of the State of Louisiana.

1 **SECTION 3.** That the official ballot to be used at said election and inserted in all voting
2 machines shall have printed thereon the following:

3 **HOME RULE CHARTER**

4 **PROPOSITION**

5 Shall Section 6-103 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans be
6 amended (i) to prohibit allotments, reallocations, or transfers of budgeted operating
7 funds that will cause, or that are reasonably anticipated to cause, expenditures from
8 any funding category for any department to exceed the amount appropriated for that
9 fiscal year, unless an amendment to the operating budget ordinance reflecting the
10 increase has been adopted and approved, (ii) to require monthly reports to the City
11 Council regarding expenditures to assess whether spending remains in line with the
12 approved budget, and (iii) to prohibit the approval of any requisition, purchase
13 order, voucher or check that would cause, or that is reasonably anticipated to cause,
14 any category of expenditures in the approved annual operating budget to exceed the
15 appropriated amount for that fiscal year, all as more fully described in Ord. No.
16 _____, M.C.S.?

1 **SECTION 4.** That in the event the ballot proposition contained in Section 3 is approved
2 by voters on November 3, 2026, Section 6-103 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New
3 Orleans shall be amended to read as follows (new language included below in **bold** for illustrative
4 purposes):

5 **“ARTICLE VI. – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

6 **PROCEDURES**

7 **CHAPTER 1. – BUDGETING AND ADMINISTRATION**

8 * * *

9 **Section 6-103. – Administration and Enforcement of the**
10 **Operating Budget Ordinance.**

11 (1) The adoption of the operating budget ordinance shall
12 constitute an appropriation of the sums specified therein for the
13 purposes and from the funds indicated. Such appropriation shall be
14 considered valid only for the year for which made, and any part of
15 such appropriation which is not encumbered or expended shall lapse
16 at the end of the year.

17 (2) Following the adoption of the operating budget ordinance,
18 the head of each office, department and board shall submit to the
19 Chief Administrative Officer schedules showing the expenditures
20 anticipated for each quarter of the fiscal year.

21 (3) The approval of an expenditure schedule by the Chief
22 Administrative Officer shall constitute a budgetary allotment which
23 shall be binding upon such office, department or board, and the
24 Department of Finance shall approve or issue no requisition,
25 purchase order, voucher or check that is not in accordance with such
26 allotment.

27 (4) The allotments herein provided may be altered at any time
28 by the Chief Administrative Officer upon his own initiative or at the
29 request of the head of an office, department or board and shall be
30 altered at the direction of the Mayor. The Mayor shall direct
31 appropriate revisions in allotments to keep expenditures within the

32 revenues received or anticipated. The powers granted in this
33 subsection shall be subject to the requirements of subsection (6)
34 and shall not be used to circumvent the approved budget or
35 revise the spending priorities and limits reflected therein.

36 (5) The Director of Finance and his surety shall be liable for any
37 moneys withdrawn from any operating fund other than in
38 accordance with the operating budget ordinance and allotments.

39 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4), no
40 allotment, reallocation, or inter-departmental funds transfer
41 shall be permitted if the allotment, reallocation, or transfer will
42 cause, or is reasonably anticipated to cause, expenditures from
43 any funding category for any department to exceed the amount
44 appropriated for that fiscal year, unless an amendment to the
45 operating budget ordinance reflecting the increase has been
46 adopted and approved as provided herein. The Chief
47 Administrative Officer and Director of Finance shall provide
48 monthly reports to the Council on expenditures, including any
49 approved allotments and reallocations, in a form sufficient to
50 demonstrate clearly whether expenditures and anticipated
51 expenditures remain in line with the approved budget and shall
52 respond promptly to requests for additional information
53 necessary to enable the Council to monitor whether spending
54 remains consistent with the approved budget. The Department

55 of Finance shall neither approve nor issue any requisition,
56 purchase order, voucher or check that would cause, or is
57 reasonably anticipated to cause, any category of expenditures in
58 the approved annual operating budget to exceed the
59 appropriated amount for that fiscal year.”

1 **SECTION 5.** That all officials of the State of Louisiana and City of New Orleans who are
2 charged with the execution of laws and the discharge of duties relative to said election are directed
3 to perform the duties required of them by such laws with regard to said election.

1 **SECTION 6.** That the Council and other municipal and parochial officers shall by proper
2 proceedings provide:

- 3 a) the taking of all necessary steps for the holding of said election; and
- 4 b) the supplying of voting machines and furnishing of the official absentee ballots, tally
5 sheets, and other necessary election supplies; and
- 6 c) the selecting and publishing of the location of the respective polling places; and
- 7 d) the issuing of any proclamation and the giving of all notices concerning said election
8 as may be necessary; and
- 9 e) the taking of all proper and necessary steps to cause the election to be held, the votes
10 compiled, and the results promulgated, as provided by existing laws and the Home Rule
11 Charter of the City of New Orleans.

1 **SECTION 7.** That the Mayor of the City of New Orleans and the New Orleans City
2 Council are hereby authorized and empowered to issue any proclamation and to give all notices
3 concerning said election as may be necessary, and to take all steps necessary and proper to cause
4 said election to be held as herein ordered.

5 Notice of said election in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and
6 incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full, shall be published in the official journal of

7 the City of New Orleans once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication being
8 not less than 45 days, nor more than 90 days prior to the date of the election; said notice shall state
9 that the Council of the City of New Orleans will meet in open session to examine and canvass the
10 results of said election during its regular meeting on December 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in Council
11 Chambers.

1 **SECTION 8.** That the Clerk of Council shall promptly cause this ordinance, which is
2 adopted pursuant to Section 9-201, *et seq.* of the Home Rule Charter, to be published at length in
3 the official journal of the City of New Orleans with the frequency prescribed by law and not less
4 than 60 days before said election.

1 **SECTION 9.** That should more than one proposition be voted on at the same time, this
2 and all such other propositions shall be consecutively identified on the ballot so that each
3 proposition may be separately voted on.

1 **SECTION 10.** That immediately upon the completion of the canvass of the returns of the
2 election, the Council shall declare the result of the election and shall declare the total number of
3 votes cast upon the proposition and the number of votes cast respectively for and against the
4 proposition. If a majority of votes cast are in favor of the proposition, the amendments of the Home
5 Rule Charter set forth in Section 4 shall take effect January 1, 2027.

1 **SECTION 11.** That if the proposition is approved, the City Attorney is hereby authorized
2 and directed to file authenticated copies thereof in the offices of the Land Records Division for the
3 Parish of Orleans, the Secretary of State, and any other office required by law within 30 days after
4 said election.

1 **SECTION 12.** That immediately upon this ordinance becoming law, the Clerk of Council
2 shall forthwith transmit certified copies thereof to the Law Department for submission to the
3 Louisiana Bond Commission and all other appropriate agencies.

1 **SECTION 13.** That immediately upon this ordinance becoming law, the Clerk of Council
2 shall be and is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to forward certified copies of this
3 ordinance to the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Elections, the Clerk of Criminal Court
4 and Ex-Officio Custodian of Voting Machines in and for the Parish of Orleans, the Clerk of Civil
5 District Court for the Parish of Orleans, the Registrar of Voters in and for the Parish of Orleans,
6 and such other officials as the Council may desire so that each may carry out all legal duties.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS _____

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

APPROVED:
DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR

RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:
YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
RECUSED:

EXHIBIT “A”

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. _____ M.C.S. adopted by the City Council of New Orleans on _____, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that an election will be held in New Orleans on Tuesday, November 6, 2026, and that at said election there will be submitted to all registered voters residing in the City of New Orleans who are qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition:

**“HOME RULE CHARTER
PROPOSITION**

Shall Section 6-103 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans be amended (i) to prohibit allotments, reallocations, or transfers of budgeted operating funds that will cause, or that are reasonably anticipated to cause, expenditures from any funding category for any department to exceed the amount appropriated for that fiscal year, unless an amendment to the operating budget ordinance reflecting the increase has been adopted and approved, (ii) to require monthly reports to the City Council regarding expenditures to assess whether spending remains in line with the approved budget, and (iii) to prohibit the approval of any requisition, purchase order, voucher or check that would cause, or that is reasonably anticipated to cause, any category of expenditures in the approved annual operating budget to exceed the appropriated amount for that fiscal year, all as more fully described in Ord. No. _____, M.C.S.?”

The election will be held at each and every polling place in the City of New Orleans, which polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541.

The estimated cost of this election, as determined by the Louisiana Secretary of State, based upon the provisions of Title 18, Chapter 8A of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and actual costs of similar elections is \$_____.

The Council, acting under the powers granted to it by the City Charter and state statutes, will meet in open and public session or in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70112, on Thursday, December 17, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the election.