Introduced May 23, 2023, by Councilman Borchert, seconded by Councilman Tamborella

Item No. 23-05-3479

ORDINANCE NO. 4131

An ordinance proposing amendments to certain provisions of Articles II, III, and IV of the City of Slidell's Home Rule Charter; ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana, for the purpose of a public vote on the proposed amendments; making application to the Louisiana State Bond Commission with respect to same; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2022, pursuant to Resolution R22-15, a Home Rule Charter Review Committee for the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana, was formed to make recommendations to the Slidell City Council about proposed amendments to the City Charter, and the completion date for the Committee's work was extended through April 25, 2023, pursuant to Resolution R23-03; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2023, the Home Rule Charter Review Committee approved the recommendation of a number of proposed amendments to the City Charter, as set forth below; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority (the "Governing Authority") of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana (the "City"), desires to propose the Charter Review Committee's recommended amendments to the City's Charter, to order and call a special election to be held in the City on November 18, 2023, for the purpose of a public vote on the proposed amendments, to authorize an application to the Louisiana State Bond Commission concerning same, and to provide for related matters in connection therewith.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND RESOLVED by the Governing

Authority, that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission and under the authority conferred by Article VI, Section 5(C) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, as amended (the "Constitution"), Article VII, Section 7-04 of the City Charter, Louisiana Revised Statute 33:1395.4 and the applicable provisions of Chapter 6-B of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (the "Election Code"), and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election (the "Election") be and the same is hereby called and ordered to be held in the City on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in compliance with the provisions of Section 541 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 18:541), and that at the said Election there shall be submitted to all registered voters residing in the City, 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 City Charter amendment propositions now proposed by the Governing Authority, to wit:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall Article III, Section 3-03.A. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"The mayor shall be at least twenty-five (25) years of age, a qualified elector of the municipality and shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided within the City for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office.",

thereby changing the City residency requirement for the mayor from one year to two years, immediately prior to qualifying?

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Shall the first sentence of Article II, Section 2-01.D. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

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"A council member shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided within the City for at least two (2) years and, where applicable, within the district from which elected, for at least one (1) year, immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office.",

thereby changing the City residency requirement for council members from one year to two years and, where applicable, the district residency requirement for council members from six months to one year, each immediately prior to qualifying?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 3

Shall Article II, Section 2-03.C.1. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"A vacancy on the Council shall be filled by appointment within fifteen (15) days after the vacancy occurs by a person meeting the qualifications for that office by the favorable vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Council. The appointee shall not have the right to seek any council office seat, whether district or at-large, at the next regular election held for the purpose of filling council offices.",

thereby restricting a person appointed to fill a vacancy in a council office seat from running for any council office seat, and not just the one he/she filled, at the next regular election for council?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 4

Shall Article II, Section 2-08. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"The council shall appoint a council administrator who shall serve in this capacity at the pleasure of the council. The council administrator shall give notice of council meetings to its members and the public,

keep the journal of its proceedings, be official secretary of the council and perform such other duties as are assigned to the position by this charter or by the council. No officer or employee in the executive branch may serve as council administrator.",

thereby removing any option for an officer or employee in the City's executive branch to serve as council administrator?

PROPOSITION NO. 5

* * * *

Shall Article II, Section 2-11.B. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"All proposed ordinances shall be read by title and published in full or by title after introduction. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, no ordinance shall be considered for final passage until it has laid over at least seven (7) days from its publication and unless a public hearing has been held on the ordinance.",

thereby clarifying that reading and publishing of ordinances, as stated, is required after their introduction, and changing the time an ordinance must lay over from 14 days after publication to 7 days after publication, subject to any exceptions in the Charter?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 6

Shall Article II, Section 2-13.C. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"Emergency ordinances shall be effective for no longer than ninety (90) days. The council, however, upon a favorable vote of at least a majority of the authorized membership may extend the life of an emergency ordinance for an additional ninety (90) days, but no such ordinance may be extended beyond that period."

thereby changing the maximum effective period for an emergency ordinance

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from 30 to 90 days and the maximum extension of such an emergency ordinance from an additional 30 days to an additional 90 days?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 7

Shall Article IV, Section 4-05.H.4. be added to the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, to read:

"4. In the event the chief of police, prior to his or her vacancy of the office, did not designate, in a signed writing on file with the city council office, an assistant chief of police duly qualified to serve as acting chief of police for the limited period set forth above, or if said designee is unwilling or unable to serve as acting chief of police, the mayor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the council's authorized membership, a duly qualified acting chief of police to serve for the limited period set forth above. The person designated, or appointed and confirmed, as the case may be, to serve as acting chief of police for such limited time period shall be considered duly qualified if he or she is a qualified elector of St. Tammany Parish who has been legally domiciled, and actually residing, in Wards 8 or 9 for at least one (1) year prior to the vacancy and remains so domiciled and residing during his or her vacancy term."?

* * * *

SECTION 2. <u>Publication of Notice of Special Election</u>. Pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1285, a Notice of Special Election concerning the Election will be published in the *St. Tammany Farmer*, a newspaper of general circulation within St. Tammany Parish, and the official journal of the City, once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date fixed for the Election, which notice will be substantially in accordance with the Notice of Special Election annexed hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference, to the same extent as if it were set forth in full.

SECTION 3. <u>Canvass of Election Returns</u>. The Governing Authority will meet on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the chambers of the Governing Authority, 2045 Second St., Slidell, Louisiana, Suite 319, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the official election returns and declare the results of the said Election, pursuant to Section 1292 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised

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Statutes of 1950, as amended.

- SECTION 4. <u>Polling Places; Commissioners</u>. The polling places set forth in the attached Notice of Special Election, and situated within the boundaries of the City, be and the same are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said Election according to law, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be those persons designated according to law.
- SECTION 5. <u>Designation of Commissioners and Commissioners-in-Charge.</u> According to law, the officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, will hold the Election as herein provided solely in compliance with the law, and will make due returns of said Election in accordance with the Election Code. The compensation of said officers be and the same is hereby fixed at the sum prescribed by law. All registered and qualified voters in the City are entitled to vote at the Election.
- SECTION 6. <u>Authorization of Officers</u>. The President, Vice-President, and/or Council Administrator of the Governing Authority be and hereby are empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish the election officers, in ample time for the holding of said Election, all equipment, forms and other items which may be required in order to hold said Election. The President, Vice-President, and/or Council Administrator of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the Election.
- SECTION 7. <u>Furnishing Election Call</u>. In accordance with law, certified copies of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Elections, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Parish Custodian of Voting Machines in and for St. Tammany Parish, State of Louisiana, and the Registrar of Voters in and for St. Tammany Parish, as notification of the Election herein called in order that each may prepare for said Election and perform their respective functions as required by law.
- SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application be and the same is hereby formally authorized to be made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the aforesaid Election as herein provided, and that a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of the Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of such application.
- SECTION 9. <u>Publication</u>. In accordance with Article II, Section 2-11.B. of the City Charter, this Ordinance was published in full or by title in the *St. Tammany Farmer*, a newspaper of general circulation in the City, which is the official journal of the City, prior to adoption.

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SECTION 10. <u>Effective Date</u>. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 9

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

WHEREUPON, this Ordinance was declared to be adopted by the City Council of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana, on this 27th day of June, 2023.

ADOPTED this 27th day of June, 2023.

Bill Borchert

President of the Council Councilman at-Large

Greg Cromer

Mayor

Thomas P. Reeves
Council Administrator

DELIVERED

9:50 am to the Mayor

RECEIVED 7 5 23

10:00 are from the Mayor

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EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of an Ordinance adopted on June 27, 2023, by the City Council of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority (the "Governing Authority") of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana (the "City"), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held in the City on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023, and that at said election there will be submitted to all registered voters of the City, qualified and entitled to vote at said election under the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States of America, the following propositions, to wit:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall Article III, Section 3-03.A. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"The mayor shall be at least twenty-five (25) years of age, a qualified elector of the municipality and shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided within the City for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office.",

thereby changing the City residency requirement for the mayor from one year to two years, immediately prior to qualifying?

PROPOSITION NO. 2

* * * *

Shall the first sentence of Article II, Section 2-01.D. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"A council member shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided within the City for at least two (2) years and, where applicable, within the district from which elected, for at least one (1) year, immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office.",

thereby changing the City residency requirement for council members from

one year to two years and, where applicable, the district residency requirement for council members from six months to one year, each immediately prior to qualifying?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 3

Shall Article II, Section 2-03.C.1. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"A vacancy on the Council shall be filled by appointment within fifteen (15) days after the vacancy occurs by a person meeting the qualifications for that office by the favorable vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Council. The appointee shall not have the right to seek any council office seat, whether district or at-large, at the next regular election held for the purpose of filling council offices.",

thereby restricting a person appointed to fill a vacancy in a council office seat from running for any council office seat, and not just the one he/she filled, at the next regular election for council?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 4

Shall Article II, Section 2-08. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"The council shall appoint a council administrator who shall serve in this capacity at the pleasure of the council. The council administrator shall give notice of council meetings to its members and the public, keep the journal of its proceedings, be official secretary of the council and perform such other duties as are assigned to the position by this charter or by the council. No officer or employee in the executive branch may serve as council administrator.",

thereby removing any option for an officer or employee in the City's executive branch to serve as council administrator?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 5

Shall Article II, Section 2-11.B. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"All proposed ordinances shall be read by title and published in full or by title after introduction. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, no ordinance shall be considered for final passage until it has laid over at least seven (7) days from its publication and unless a public hearing has been held on the ordinance.",

thereby clarifying that reading and publishing of ordinances, as stated, is required after their introduction, and changing the time an ordinance must lay over from 14 days after publication to 7 days after publication, subject to any exceptions in the Charter?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 6

Shall Article II, Section 2-13.C. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Slidell, Louisiana, be amended to read:

"Emergency ordinances shall be effective for no longer than ninety (90) days. The council, however, upon a favorable vote of at least a majority of the authorized membership may extend the life of an emergency ordinance for an additional ninety (90) days, but no such ordinance may be extended beyond that period.",

thereby changing the maximum effective period for an emergency ordinance from 30 to 90 days and the maximum extension of such an emergency ordinance from an additional 30 days to an additional 90 days?

* * * *

PROPOSITION NO. 7

Shall Article IV, Section 4-05.H.4. be added to the Home Rule Charter of the

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City of Slidell, Louisiana, to read:

"4. In the event the chief of police, prior to his or her vacancy of the office, did not designate, in a signed writing on file with the city council office, an assistant chief of police duly qualified to serve as acting chief of police for the limited period set forth above, or if said designee is unwilling or unable to serve as acting chief of police, the mayor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the council's authorized membership, a duly qualified acting chief of police to serve for the limited period set forth above. The person designated, or appointed and confirmed, as the case may be, to serve as acting chief of police for such limited time period shall be considered duly qualified if he or she is a qualified elector of St. Tammany Parish who has been legally domiciled, and actually residing, in Wards 8 or 9 for at least one (1) year prior to the vacancy and remains so domiciled and residing during his or her vacancy term."?

The said special election will be held at the following polling places situated within the boundaries of the City, which polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023, in compliance with the provisions of Section 541 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 18:541), to-wit:

Precinct	Polling Location	Address	District
802	CLEARWOOD JR HIGH SCHOOL	130 CLEARWOOD DR, SLIDELL, LA	2G
802A	CLEARWOOD JR HIGH SCHOOL	130 CLEARWOOD DR, SLIDELL, LA	2G
803	CLEARWOOD JR HIGH SCHOOL	130 CLEARWOOD DR, SLIDELL, LA	2G
805	LITTLE OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL	59241 REBEL DR, SLIDELL, LA	2E
806	BOYET JR HIGH SCHOOL	59295 REBEL DR, SLIDELL, LA	2E
811	BOYET JR HIGH SCHOOL	59295 REBEL DR, SLIDELL, LA	2E
813	NORTHSHORE HIGH SCHOOL	100 PANTHER DR, SLIDELL, LA	2E
901	TRUE LIFE CHURCH	62160 AIRPORT RD, SLIDELL, LA	2D
902	ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	38276 N 5TH ST, SLIDELL, LA	2D
904	CAROLYN PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL	35708 LIBERTY DR, SLIDELL, LA	2D
907	CAROLYN PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL	35708 LIBERTY DR, SLIDELL, LA	2D
909A	LAKESHORE VILLAGES AMENITIES CENTER	5032 LAKESHORE VILLAGE W, SLIDELL, LA	2B
915	TRUE LIFE CHURCH	62160 AIRPORT RD, SLIDELL, LA	2D

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916	CAROLYN PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL	35708 LIBERTY DR, SLIDELL, LA	2D
922	SALMEN HIGH SCHOOL	300 SPARTAN DR, SLIDELL, LA	2A, 2B
S01	JOHN SLIDELL PARK GYMNASIUM	105 ROBERT BLVD, SLIDELL, LA	2G
S02	SLIDELL HIGH SCHOOL	1 TIGER DR, SLIDELL, LA	2G
S03	SLIDELL HIGH SCHOOL	1 TIGER DR, SLIDELL, LA	2F
S04	BONNE ECOLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	900 RUE VERAND, SLIDELL, LA	2F
S05	JOHN SLIDELL PARK GYMNASIUM	105 ROBERT BLVD, SLIDELL, LA	2F, 2G
S06	CAROLYN PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL	35708 LIBERTY DR, SLIDELL, LA	2C, 2D
S07	BAYOU WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	35614 LIBERTY DR, SLIDELL, LA	2D
S08	BONNE ECOLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	900 RUE VERAND, SLIDELL, LA	2E, 2F
S09	BONNE ECOLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	900 RUE VERAND, SLIDELL, LA	2C
S10	SLIDELL JR HIGH SCHOOL	333 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, SLIDELL, LA	2A, 2C
S11	SLIDELL JR HIGH SCHOOL	333 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, SLIDELL, LA	2C, 2E
S13	ST TAMMANY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	701 CLEVELAND AVE, SLIDELL, LA	2D
S15	SALMEN HIGH SCHOOL	300 SPARTAN DR, SLIDELL, LA	2A, 2D
S16	ABNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	825 KOSTMAYER ST, SLIDELL, LA	2B
S17	SALMEN HIGH SCHOOL	300 SPARTAN DR, SLIDELL, LA	2B
S18	ABNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	825 KOSTMAYER ST, SLIDELL, LA	2D
S19	SLIDELL HIGH SCHOOL	1 TIGER DR, SLIDELL, LA	2C
S21	NORTHSHORE HIGH SCHOOL	100 PANTHER DR, SLIDELL, LA	2A
S22	ABNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	825 KOSTMAYER ST, SLIDELL, LA	2A, 2B
S23	SLIDELL JR HIGH SCHOOL	333 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, SLIDELL, LA	2C, 2E
S24	ST TAMMANY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	701 CLEVELAND AVE, SLIDELL, LA	2A

The polling places set forth above and situated within the boundaries of the City, be and the same are hereby designated as the polling places in which to hold the said special election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 6-B of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated according to law, will make due returns thereof to the Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the

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chambers of the Governing Authority, 2045 Second St., Slidell, Louisiana, Suite 319, and will then and there in open and public session, proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the special election. All registered and qualified voters in the City are entitled to vote at said special election.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Slidell, Louisiana, on this, the 27th day of June, 2023.

Bill Borchert, Council President

ATTEST:

Thomas Reeves, Council Administrator

George G. Cromer, Mayor

STATE OF LOUISIANA CITY OF SLIDELL

I, the undersigned Secretary of the City Council of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana (the "City"), do hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Governing Authority on June 27, 2023, proposing amendments to certain provisions of Articles II, III, and IV of the City of Slidell's Home Rule Charter; ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana, for the purpose of a public vote on the proposed amendments; making application to the Louisiana State Bond Commission with respect to same; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

I further certify that this Ordinance has not been amended or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my official signature as Administrator of the City Council of the City of Slidell, State of Louisiana on this, the 27th day of June, 2023.

Leur PReire

Thomas Reeves, Council Administrator

[SEAL]