

**AN ORDINANCE**

**AMENDING CHARLESTON COUNTY CODE, ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 19  
("TAXATION") TO MODIFY THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, County Council has the authority to constitute and adjust certain Boards and Commissions, and to appoint members thereto, and

WHEREAS, The Charleston County Board of Assessment Appeals is one such Board, and

WHEREAS, County Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the administration of County functions to increase the number of members of the County Board of Assessment Appeals and to allow for hearings by multiple panels of board members,

NOW, THEREFORE, Charleston County Council, in meeting duly assembled, does hereby adopt the above recitals as findings, and hereby ordains the following:

**Section 1.01**

Article IV, "Board of Assessment Appeals", Section 19-52 "Composition; terms; vacancies." is amended to increase the number of members of the Board from ten to fifteen, by replacing the first two sentences with the following:

"The County Board of Assessment Appeals shall be composed of fifteen (15) members to be appointed by the County Council for four-year terms. The terms shall be staggered so that there shall be five (5) new members selected every two (2) years. The initial terms of the five (5) new members added by this amendment may be less than four (4) years, to be decided by majority vote of the membership at the first meeting after passage of this ordinance."

**Section 2.01**

Appeals and other hearings may be conducted by panels of five (5) members chosen from among the fifteen (15) members of the board. Three members of the panel shall constitute a quorum, unless the parties agree to a lesser number.

Panels may be chosen by a method or methods determined by the Board. The method of choosing hearing panels should enable timely consideration of appeals and other matters brought to the board, and should also involve considerations of members' availability and limiting overburdening individual members with hearings.

**Section 3.01**

The Council may amend this ordinance as it deems necessary, to reduce the Board to a lower complement of members. When so amended, unless otherwise specified, the Council may reappoint five members from among the existing fifteen (15) and establish their respective terms, or may abolish and reconstitute the Board, seeking applicants for the remaining positions.

#### **Section 4.01**

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any circumstance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, this holding does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

#### **Section 5.01**

This ordinance shall be effective upon approval following third reading.