

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AUTHORITY TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION OF CHARLESTON COUNTY TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON

WHEREAS, S.C. Code Ann. § 5-15-145 (1976), as amended, allows for the transfer of some or all authority to conduct municipal elections to a county election commission; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of Ordinance Number 2007-11, (attached hereto as Exhibit "A"), the City Council of the City of North Charleston (the "City") has determined it to be in the best interests of its citizens that certain authority attendant to the holding of City elections be transferred to the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County has agreed to accept the specified authority to conduct municipal elections in the City of North Charleston as set forth hereafter; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council desires to enact an ordinance approving the transfer of authority to the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County to conduct elections in the City as set forth hereafter; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE ORDAINED IT BY CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. In accordance with the authority devolved by S.C. Code § 5-15-145 (Supp. 2003), and pursuant to the terms of North Charleston Ordinance No. 2007-11, Charleston County Council hereby accepts the transfer to the the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County (the "Board") of the authority to conduct

elections for the City. The authority here transferred includes, but is not limited to, publishing proper notices of elections, insuring the provision of proper books for registration, preparing and distributing ballots and election materials, preparing and staffing the absentee ballot precinct, appointing and training poll managers, providing voting machines, supervising the operation of all polling places, to include enforcement authority to insure that proper procedures and laws are being followed, and certifying the results of the election. All elections so conducted by the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County shall be in accordance with Title 7 of the South Carolina Code, as the same may be modified by Title 5 of the South Carolina Code.

Section 2. The City shall reimburse the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County for all costs incurred in providing ballots, advertising elections, printing costs, poll managers= compensation and other additional expenses incurred in, or arising from, its conduct of municipal elections in the City. Poll managers will be paid at the standard rate set by the South Carolina State Election Commission for all other elections.

Section 3. In the event a protest is filed or litigation is commenced in connection with the conduct of municipal elections, the same shall be heard by the Municipal Election Commission and defended by the City Attorney. The City shall pay all fees, costs, and expenses incurred in such protest or litigation, including, but not limited to, fees, costs and expenses of the Board, its officers, agents and employees, and the officers, agents and employees of the County. Notwithstanding the preceding, the City will not be responsible for attorney's fees for separate counsel retained by the Board or County or their respective officers, agents or employees in any such protest or litigation.

Section 4. The Board shall provide invoices and/or other documentation to the City of all costs and expenses incurred in the conduct of municipal elections, protests, certification of results, litigation or other costs which may be incurred and reimbursed which are not specifically mentioned in this ordinance.

Section 5. 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 6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon successful completion of the following necessary actions prerequisite under federal and state law to effect the changes called for hereunder:

- (A) Adoption of this Ordinance accepting the authority being transferred hereunder, and
- (B) Submission to the United States Justice Department of an application for pre-clearance for the transfer of authority for conducting municipal elections which would be affected hereunder.

ADOPTED and APPROVED in meeting duly assembled this 15th day of May, 2007.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Timothy E. Scott
Chairman

ATTEST:

By: _____
Beverly T. Craven
Clerk of Council