

**CITY OF CENTRAL**

**BY COUNCILMAN MESSINA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-38**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A PLAN FOR HOLDING  
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ON CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION  
DATES AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS**

WHEREAS, since incorporation of the City of Central, elections for officials of the City of Central have been held in the spring; and

WHEREAS, elections held in the spring are often more costly than elections held in conjunction with Congressional elections; and

WHEREAS, municipal elections held in conjunction with other regularly scheduled elections may increase voter participation; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2013, the Council for the City of Central voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2013-21, which provided, *inter alia*, that, beginning in 2018, municipal elections for the City of Central shall be conducted at the congressional elections in accordance with La. R.S. 18:402(B) and that the terms of office for municipal officials elected at the 2014 municipal elections for the City of Central shall commence on July 1, 2014, and end on December 31, 2018, in accordance with La. R.S. 33:383(A)(2)(d); and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:383(A)(2)(a) provides that “[a]ny municipality by ordinance of the governing authority may adopt a plan for holding municipal elections at the congressional elections in accordance with R.S. 18:402(B). Any plan so adopted shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than one year prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the congressional primary election at which municipal officers shall be elected initially under the plan. This election shall be the first congressional primary election after termination of the terms of office to which municipal officers in office on the effective date of this Subsection were elected.”; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:383(D) further provides that, “[o]fficers of a municipality who are in office when the municipality elects to come under the provisions of this Part under R.S. 33:322, shall retain their offices until the first election under this section, with the powers of like offices under this Part.”; and

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Central desires to reduce election expenses and to maximize voter participation in municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:383(A)(2)(a) permits municipalities to adopt a plan for holding municipal elections at the congressional elections in accordance with R.S. 18:402(B);

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Central further desires to ensure that the plan for holding municipal elections at the congressional elections be in compliance with Louisiana law, including La. R.S. 33:383;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Central, State of Louisiana as follows:

**Section 1.** Beginning in 2018, municipal elections for the City of Central shall be conducted at the congressional elections in accordance with R.S. 18:402(B).

**Section 2.** The terms of office for municipal officials who are in office when the municipality elects to come under the provisions of Title 33, Chapter 2, Part I, under R.S. 33:322, shall retain their offices until the first election under this section, with the powers of like offices under this Part. Thus, the terms of office for municipal officials elected at the 2014 municipal elections for the City of Central shall end on December 31, 2018 in accordance with La. R.S. 33:383(A)(2)(d).

**Section 3.** The Clerk for the City of Central is hereby directed to file a copy of the foregoing ordinance with Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler pursuant to La. R.S. 33:383(A)(2)(a).

**Section 4. Conflicts**

The specific terms and conditions of this Ordinance shall prevail against prior ordinances of the City to the extent that there may be any conflict.

**Section 5. Severability**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision of this Ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or parts thereof, other than the part declared invalid. The remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected by the declaration of invalidity and shall remain in force and effect.

**Section 6. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall be effective upon publication but, in the event preclearance is required, it shall not be enforceable until approved in accordance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Introduced before the Council on September 13, 2016.

Notice of public hearing was published in The Advocate on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2016.

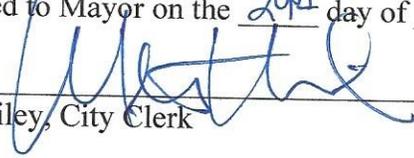
This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

For:	Ellis, Evans, Fralick, Messina, Vance
Against:	None
Absent:	None

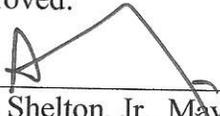
Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

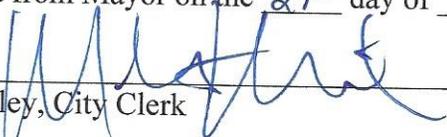
Delivered to Mayor on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Miley, City Clerk

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
I. M. Shelton, Jr., Mayor

Received from Mayor on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Miley, City Clerk

Adopted Ordinance published in The Advocate on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.