

NOTICE OF REFERENDA

CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Fort Walton Beach has called for a Special Referenda Election to be held March 10, 2026.

The six charter referenda shall be voted upon only by residents of the City of Fort Walton Beach, and who were registered to vote no later than Monday, February 9, 2026. Polling places shall be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, March 10, 2026.

The election shall be composed of the following questions:

Ballot Question 1

Moving City Elections to November General Election Dates

Shall the City Charter be amended to move the election dates for the mayor and city council to coincide with the November statewide general election cycle, which occurs in even years?

YES

NO

Ballot Question 2

Non-partisan City Elections, Stricter Term Limits, Filling Vacancies, and Filing Fees

Shall Sections 3, 4, 5, 7, and 25 of the City Charter be amended for purposes of clarifying the non-partisan nature of council seats, updating term-limit provisions, establishing consistent procedures for filling council and mayoral vacancies, and providing flexibility in the establishment of filing fees for city elections?

YES

NO

Ballot Question 3

Council Meetings and Governance

Shall Sections 6, 8, and 9 of the City Charter be amended to clarify procedures for scheduling Council meetings by resolution, to adjust the disciplinary vote threshold for Councilmembers, and to strengthen attendance and forfeiture of office provisions?

YES

NO

Ballot Question 4

Changes to remove outdated language and enhance efficiency of City Operations

Shall the City Charter provisions relating to city officers and their duties be amended to eliminate outdated language, provide clearer descriptions, and enhance the efficiency of the City's daily operations?

YES

NO

Ballot Question 5

Authorizing Compensation to City Elected Officials

Shall Section 33 of the City Charter be amended to authorize compensation to city elected officials, with such compensation in the form of either monetary compensation or health insurance coverage to be paid by the City, at the option of the City elected official?

YES

NO

Ballot Question 6

Deleting Charter Section 35 which Establishes Limitations on increases to Annual Budget Expenditures

Shall the City Charter be amended to repeal Section 35 titled “Limitation on Annual Budget Expenditures,” which limits annual increases in the budget, and which does not limit increases to property tax millage rates?

YES

NO

Vote-By-Mail ballots may be obtained from the Supervisor of Elections office as provided by law. Early voting will be held Monday, March 2, 2026 – Friday, March 6, 2026, from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm each day at the Supervisor of Elections offices at 302 N Wilson St, Ste 102, Crestview and 1250 Eglin Pkwy, Ste 103, Shalimar.

Voting will be conducted in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act; for information or assistance, call 850-689-5600.

February 4, 2026
February 18, 2026

Paul Lux, CERA
Supervisor of Elections
Okaloosa County FL