ORDINANCE NO.


#### Abstract

AN ORDINANCE TO REFER TO THE VOTERS AT A REFERENDUM THE OPTION TO REORGANIZE THE CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO ABOLISH THE THREE (3) AT-LARGE POSITIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE MAYOR SHALL BE DIRECTLY ELECTED; TO PROVIDE THAT THE SEVEN (7) OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE ELECTED BY WARD BY PLURALITY VOTE; TO DIRECT THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AN ELECTION PROCLAMATION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.


WHEREAS, it has been determined that for the Board of Directors to more closely represent the racial make-up of the population of the City of Little Rock. Arkansas, it would be appropriate that all positions, except the position of Mayor, be elected from seven (7) Wards that are geographically compact and contain approximately the same population; and,

WHEREAS, this decision is necessary to overcome over two decades of racial discrimination in how the members of the Board of Directors have been elected; and,

WHEREAS, to achieve this change in the membership of the Board of Directors, a referendum should be held on November 6, 2018, and a proclamation for such election should be issued:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The following question shall be referred to the electors of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, at a special election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018:

FOR adoption of the management form of government as set forth below.

AGAINST adoption of the management form of government as set forth below $\qquad$
Description


#### Abstract

A City Manager Form of Government with seven (7) members of the Board of Directors elected by plurality from the Ward in which they reside, and the Mayor to be directly elected at-large, provided that if no candidate for Mayor receives $\mathbf{4 0 \%}$ of the vote on the first ballot, there will be a run-off election only


## for the position of Mayor between the two (2) candidates who receive the greatest number of votes.

Section 2. As set forth more fully in the ballot title and government description contained in Section 1 of this ordinance, the Board of Directors refers to the electorate the question of the abolition of the three (3) at-large positions on the Board of Directors, the direct election of the Mayor at-large, and of seven (7) members of the Board of Directors to be elected from seven (7) different Wards, or Districts, with the geographic boundaries determined by the dividing of the territory of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, into seven (7) Wards having substantially equal population, according to the most recently published Federal Census of population in the City.

Section 3. The Mayor and City Clerk are directed to complete any and all proclamations required by law to be filed for an election on November 6, 2018, and to prepare and publish any notices or advertisements required, and further to perform all necessary acts to have the Pulaski County Election Commission and other Officers assure that this matter is placed upon a ballot for a special election to be held on November 6, 2018.

Section 4. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the ordinance.

Section 5. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5. Emergency Clause. The ability to elect seven (7) members of the Board of Directors from individual Wards is necessary to provide representation which more accurately reflects the diversity and make-up of the voting population of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, which is essential to the public health, safety, and welfare; an emergency is, therefore, declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.
PASSED: June 19, 2018
ATTEST:

## APPROVED:

## Susan Langley, City Clerk

Mark Stodola, Mayor

## APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

