

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THREE (3) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM DESIGNATED DISTRICTS, TO BE REFERRED TO AS REGIONAL DISTRICTS, THAT OVERLAP WARD BOUNDARIES AS A MEANS OF REPURPOSING THE THREE (3) CURRENT AT-LARGE POSITIONS; TO CALL AN ELECTION DURING THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER TO UTILIZE REGIONAL DISTRICTS AS A MEANS OF REPURPOSING THE CURRENT THREE (3) AT-LARGE DISTRICTS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, as a result of the Future-LITTLE ROCK process, it was decided to expand the membership of the Little Rock Board of Directors (“the Board of Directors”) from seven (7) members elected At-Large, to eleven (11) members with a directly-elected Mayor, three (3) members elected At-Large, and seven (7) members elected from Wards; and,

WHEREAS, in 2019, ARK. ACT 978 the Arkansas General Assembly granted municipalities the authority to modify this procedure so that instead of Directors elected At-Large, a municipality may identify a larger Designated District, referred to here as a Regional Position, which can overlap the boundaries of various Wards; and,

WHEREAS, the Governance Structure Study Group created pursuant to Little Rock, Ark., Resolution 14,902 (December 3, 2018) has recommended the creation of three (3) Regional Positions as a means of repurposing the current three (3) At-Large Positions; and,

WHEREAS, it is believed that this type of election would be beneficial to the City of Little Rock, Arkansas (“the City”), and would make election to the Board of Directors more readily available to a greater number of people.

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

Section 1. The provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to approval by a majority of the electors voting on the issue during the General Election to be held on November 3, 2020.

Section 2. The effective date for candidates who have been elected to fill a Regional Position shall be January 1, 2024; however, successful candidates for a Regional Position shall first take office on January 1, 2025.

1 **Section 3.** The purpose of this ordinance is to implement certain recommendations on the structure of
2 Municipal Government recommended by the Governance Structure Study Group created pursuant to Little
3 Rock, Ark., Resolution No. 14,902 (December 3, 2018), and submitted on October 23, 2019.

4 **Section 4. Definitions.** For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following
5 meanings:

6 *At-Large Position* refers to a position on the Little Rock Board of Directors for which the candidate is
7 an elector and resides within the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, and every elector is eligible to vote on a
8 candidate who seeks such a position.

9 *Regional District* refers to the geographic boundaries of a Regional Position which may include
10 portions of the geographic boundaries of one (1) or more Wards;

11 *Regional Position* refers to a position on the Little Rock Board of Directors elected from a Regional
12 District; to be eligible to seek election an elector resides within the boundaries of such a District, and only
13 those electors who reside within the geographic boundaries of a Regional District are eligible to vote for a
14 candidate.

15 **Section 5. Repurposing of Current At-Large Positions.** Effective January 1, 2025, At-Large Position
16 8, At-Large Position 9, and At-Large Position 10, shall be repurposed when members of the Board of
17 Directors elected from Regional Position 8, Regional Position 9 and Regional Position 10 take their seats.
18 Regional Position 8, Regional Position 9 and Regional Position 10 of the Board of Directors, as At-Large
19 Districts, shall be repurposed as Regional Positions.

20 **Section 6. Creation of Regional Positions.** Effective January 1, 2025, there shall be three (3)
21 Regional Positions on the Board of Directors to be enumerated as Regional Position 8, Regional Position
22 9, and Regional Position 10; the Elector serving in such a position:

23 (a) Shall have been elected in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance at the 2024
24 General Election;

25 (b) Shall be subject to all laws that impact service in any Board of Directors position.

26 **Section 7. Election of Regional Positions.**

27 (a) The geographic boundaries of a Regional District shall be established in the same manner
28 as a Ward Position on the Board of Directors as determined by Arkansas State Law, and as impacted
29 by the most recent Federal Decennial Census.

30 (b) To be eligible to hold a Regional Position, a candidate must reside within the geographical
31 boundaries of the Regional District at the time of filing to be a candidate for such a position.

32 (c) To be elected to hold a Regional Position, a candidate must receive more votes than any
33 other candidate for the position.

1 limited to, Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 16,435 (June 1, 1993) and Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No.
2 19,761 (June 12, 2007).

3 **Section 14. Emergency Clause.** *In light of changes in Arkansas State Law, and the recommendations*
4 *of the Governance Structure Study Group, it is deemed important that the structure of the Little Rock Board*
5 *of Directors consist of a directly elected Mayor, three (3) members elected from Regional Districts which*
6 *shall overlap various Ward boundaries, and seven (7) members elected by Ward; further, the ability to*
7 *implement a government structure permitted by State Statute is essential to the public health, safety, and*
8 *welfare; an emergency is, therefore, declared to exist, and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect,*
9 *as set forth above, from and after the date of its passage although the election called for in this ordinance*
10 *will not take place until November 3, 2020.*

11 **PASSED: February 18, 2020**

12 **ATTEST:**

APPROVED:

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16 **Susan Langley, City Clerk**

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20 **Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor**

21 **APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

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25 **Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney**

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