

ORDINANCE NO. 17

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A PERMANENT SINGLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS IN PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING FOR THE RE-REGISTRATION OF ALL QUALIFIED ELECTORS; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PREPARATION OF A NEW SET OF REGISTRATION BOOKS IN SAID CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM THE REGISTRATION BOOKS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR FUTURE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS; AND PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, is of the opinion that the immediate enactment of this ordinance is required for the protection and preservation of the peace, safety, health and prosperity of the City and its inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, the present set of registration books of the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, are antiquated and contain the names of people who are now removed, deceased or illegally registered, and the City desires to establish a permanent registration system to eliminate the necessity of re-registering electors frequently;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted by the people of the City of Port St. Joe:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established in the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, a permanent single registration system for the registration of electors to qualify them to vote in all elections to be held in the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, and the electors registered hereunder shall not thereafter be required to register or re-register except as may be provided by ordinance or law for registration in certain freeholder elections.

SECTION 2. That the registration certificates issued to electors registering under the permanent registration system shall be in a form which shall be prepared to elicit the following information:

- (a) Registration number
- (b) Date of registration
- (c) Full name
- (d) Sex
- (e) Business or occupation
- (f) Age
- (g) Race
- (h) Freeholder status
- (i) Whether such registrant has been convicted of any felony, and if so, have his civil rights been restored.
- (j) Any other information deemed necessary by the City Commission or City Auditor and Clerk as the registration officer.

SECTION 3. That all otherwise qualified electors of the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, in order to be qualified to vote in any special election, general election, special primary election or regular primary election, to be held in the City of Port St. Joe, Florida, shall be required to register in a new set of registration books which shall be provided by the City Commission of the City of Port St. Joe, and shall be substantially in the form provided for the several counties of the State of Florida under Chapter 98, Florida Statutes, 1963.

SECTION 4. For the purposes of this registration under the new permanent single registration system hereby adopted, the new registration books shall be open for registration on the 4th day of February, 1965, and shall remain open for said purposes between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 12:00 o'clock noon, and from 1:00 o'clock P.M. to 5:00 o'clock P.M. each day, except Sundays and holidays, until ten (10) days next prior to the holding of the first regular municipal election hereunder, and thereafter the registration books shall be opened and closed in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and ordinances now in effect in the City or hereafter changed by law.

SECTION 5. That the City Auditor and Clerk shall be the registration officer for the City, and between April and May, 1969, preceeding a regular primary election in said City, and between the same dates each four (4) years thereafter, he shall mail either to each qualified elector in the City or to each elector who did not vote in any election in the City during the past two years, a form to be filled in, signed and then returned by mail within thirty (30) days after said notice is postmarked. The form returned shall advise the City Auditor and Clerk whether the elector's status has changed from that appearing on the registration record. Electors failing to return the forms within this period shall have their names withdrawn temporarily from the registration books. The list of the electors, temporarily withdrawn, shall be posted in the City Hall. Names will be restored to the registration records when the electors, in person, make known to the City Auditor and Clerk that his status has not changed, at which time, he is then reinstated on the registration books without the necessity of re-registration, but a method to be used for keeping the permanent registration list up to date.

SECTION 6. Any elector may have his name removed from the registration books by filing with the City Auditor and Clerk a written request duly acknowledged and upon receipt of said request the City Auditor and Clerk shall remove the name of said elector from the registration books.

SECTION 7. The City Auditor and Clerk of the City shall, whenever it may be necessary, transfer and transcribe into new registration books the names of all legally registered electors as their names appear upon the old registration books.

SECTION 8. The City Auditor and Clerk is the official custodian of the books of registration of said City. Whenever it shall come to his knowledge that any elector has become disqualified to vote by reason of conviction of any disqualifying crime or from other cause, or has removed from the City and established residence elsewhere, he shall notify the person at his last known address by certified or registered mail to the effect that the continued registration of said elector is allegedly illegal and that such elector must show cause within fifteen (15) days why his name should not be removed from the registration books. If such person fails to show any reasonable cause during said period of time allowed, his name shall be forthwith stricken from the registration books. If such person appears and shows a reasonable cause why his name should not be stricken from the registration books, the City Auditor and Clerk shall present all evidence offered by such person to the City Commission, who shall determine whether there is sufficient evidence to strike the person's name from the registration books.

SECTION 9. The registration books are public records and every citizen is allowed to examine the registration books while they are in custody of the City Auditor and Clerk, but may not remove these books from the City Hall.

SECTION 10. All registration ordinances or resolutions in conflict with this ordinance, including Ordinance No. 174X, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and recording in the proper book as required by law.

INTRODUCED in the City Commission on the 19th day of January, A.D. 1965 and ADOPTED and passed by the City Commission on the 2nd day of February, A.D. 1965.

/s/ Frank Hannon
Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ J. B. Williams
City Auditor and Clerk