

ORDINANCE NO. : 579

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA ALLOWING CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR-COMMISSIONER AND COMMISSIONER THE OPTION OF QUALIFYING FOR THE ELECTION FOR THOSE CITY OFFICES BY OBTAINING SIGNATURES VIA PETITION IN LIEU OF PAYING THE QUALIFYING FEE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 99 FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, election qualifying fees and assessments are set forth in Chapter 99 Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 99.095 Florida Statutes allows for a petition process in lieu of a qualifying fee if the candidate submits a petition with the signatures of at least 1% of the registered voters in the geographical area represented by the office sought; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that allowing candidates to qualify via petition will increase the number of citizens running for office, which is in the best interests of the people of Port St. Joe; and

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

1. That the candidates in all city elections for the offices of Mayor-Commissioner and City Commissioner occurring after the effective date of this Ordinance may qualify via the petition process in Lieu of a qualifying fee.
2. The petition submitted must contain the signatures of at least 10% (ten percent) of the

City's registered voters at the closing of the books of the preceding election.

3. Each candidate must submit their petition to the Gulf County Supervisor of Elections Office in the time frame set forth in Chapter 99.095(3).
4. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.
5. This Ordinance shall take effect on August 1, 2021.

THIS ORDINANCE ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.

**BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REX BUZZETT  
MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
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CHARLOTTE M. PIERCE  
CITY CLERK