

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE DATE FOR THE 2016 REGULAR CITY ELECTION TO COINCIDE WITH THE DATE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY IN 2016; AMENDING THE QUALIFYING DATES FOR THE 2016 MUNICIPAL ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR TERM OF OFFICE RESULTING FROM THE 2016 MUNICIPAL ELECTION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*WHEREAS*, pursuant to *Florida Statutes* §101.75(3), the governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, move the date of any municipal election to a date concurrent with any statewide or countywide election. The dates for qualifying for the election moved by the passage of such ordinance shall be specifically provided for in the ordinance. The term of office for any elected municipal official shall commence as provided by the relevant municipal charter or ordinance.

*WHEREAS*, Florida Legislature amended Section 103.101 Florida Statutes creating a committee to set the Presidential Preference Primary date,

*WHEREAS*, the City of Mary Esther recognizes the time constraints in which to provide the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Office with the City Council's decision to change the date to coincide with the Presidential Preference Primary; and

*WHEREAS*, if the City of Mary Esther, Florida were to conduct a separate General Municipal Election in March, the City would otherwise be responsible for the total election costs imposing a large financial burden on the City of Mary Esther and its residents; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.**

**CITY ELECTION DATE FOR 2016.** The 2016 regular city election shall be held on the date of the Presidential Preference Primary, March 15, 2016.

**SECTION 2.**

**QUALIFYING PERIOD.** The qualifying period for candidates seeking election to office in the City of Mary Esther 2016 regular city election shall be modified to commence at Noon on January 4, 2016 and terminate at Noon on January 8, 2016.

**SECTION 3.**

**TERM OF OFFICE.** The term of office of any candidate elected to office in the 2016 regular city election shall begin on the third Monday in March 2016.

**SECTION 4.**

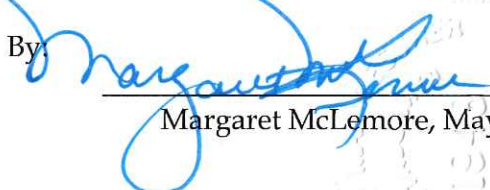
**SEVERABILITY.** If any word, phrase, sentence, clause or other portion of this Ordinance is determined to be invalid, void or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in effect.

**SECTION 5.**

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

SO DONE this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of AUG. 2015.

By



Margaret McLemore, Mayor



ATTEST:



Dana L.S. Williams, CMC  
City Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: July 6, 2015  
Published: July 24, 2015  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: August 3, 2015