

ORDINANCE NO. 25-_____

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SALARY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLK COUNTY COMMISSION; PROVIDING THE AMOUNT OF THE INCREASE; PROVIDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SALARY INCREASE AS JANUARY 1, 2026; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Polk County Charter, in Section 2.5, set the yearly salary of Commissioners serving on the Board of County Commissioners elected on or after November 7, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Charter further provides that the salary may be amended, by Ordinance, upon a unanimous vote of the members of the entire Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, based on previous ordinances adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, the current approved salary of Commissioners serving on the Board of County Commissioners is \$51,304.54.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Commissioners now serving on the Board of County Commissioners that the salary shall be increased based the lesser of the average percentage increase in the salaries of county employees for the fiscal year just concluded and the percentage change in the U.S. consumer price index for the previous year as allowed pursuant to the Polk County Charter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1.

By unanimous vote of the members of the entire Board of County Commissioners, the salary of the Commissioners shall be increased by 2.9% which is the lesser of the average percentage increase in the salaries of county employees for the fiscal year just concluded (4%) and the percentage change in the U.S. consumer price index for the previous year (2.9%) as required by Section 2.5 of the Polk County Charter.

SECTION 2.

This salary increase to \$52,792.37 shall be effective on January 1, 2026.

SECTION 3.

Any Commissioner may opt-out of receiving the salary increase provided herein by providing written notice to the Clerk of the Board on or before December 15, 2025, which shall substantially be in the following form:

I Commissioner _____ hereby opt-out of receiving the increase in salary effective January 1, 2026, and elect to receive _____ as my salary for calendar year 2026.

A Commissioner's election not to receive the salary increase shall not affect the yearly salary for subsequent Commissioner's which represent the district and upon the Commissioner vacating the seat for the district, the yearly salary shall be adjusted to the maximum yearly salary allowed for Board of County Commissioners.

A Commissioner that elected not to receive the increase pursuant to previous ordinances will receive the increase provided herein unless the Commissioner provides notice to the Clerk of the Board on or before December 15, 2025, of his or her election to opt-out of the increase provided herein. In such case, the current salary of the commissioner shall be increased by 2.9%.

SECTION 4. Severability

If any provision or application of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

SECTION 5. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective upon the filing of the Ordinance with the Florida Department of State.

Passed by the Board on this 4th day of November 2025.