

CITY OF OAK HILL
ORDINANCE 2025-X4
SECOND READING

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Council of the City of Oak Hill, in the
State of West Virginia, as follows:

SECTION 1: ADOPTION “3.06.030 Election” of the Oak Hill Municipal Code is hereby
amended as follows:

ADOPTION

3.06.030 Election

WHEREAS, the City of Oak Hill currently conducts its municipal elections independently of state and federal election cycles; and

WHEREAS, the West Virginia Legislature has amended the law to permit municipalities to align their elections with the regular statewide primary or general elections in accordance with W. Va. Code § 3-1-3a; and

WHEREAS, aligning the City's election cycle with the state and federal elections will increase voter participation and reduce election administration costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oak Hill desires to change the date of its municipal elections to coincide with the general election in **November 2028** and every four years thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to extend the terms of its current elected officials to transition to the new election schedule without interruption of service; pursuant of W. Va. Code § 8-5-5(g)

A. Change in Municipal Election Date:

Beginning in **2028**, the regular municipal election for the City of Oak Hill shall be held on the date of the **general election in November**, in accordance with the election schedule set forth by the State of West Virginia, and shall continue to be held every four (4) years thereafter.

- B. Extension of Current Terms: To facilitate this transition pursuant of W. Va. Code § 8-5-5(g)
1. The terms of office for the current Mayor and City Council members, which would otherwise expire prior to the 2028 election, are hereby extended until **December 31, 2028**.
 2. The officials elected during the 2028 general election shall assume office on **January 1, 2029**, and serve terms as prescribed by the City Charter or subsequent ordinances.
- C. Conduct of Elections by the Fayette County Clerk: In accordance with West Virginia Code: The **Fayette County Clerk** shall be responsible for the administration and conduct of the municipal election beginning in 2028, including the handling of ballots, voting machines, absentee voting, and polling places.
1. The City shall enter into any necessary agreements with the County Clerk for the administration of the election and shall reimburse the County for its costs in accordance with applicable laws.

D. Certification of Results:

The **Fayette County Commission** shall canvass the votes and certify the results of the municipal election as required by state law and in the same manner as it does for county, state, and federal offices.

REPEALER CLAUSE All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof, which are in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE Should any part or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance in whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

EFFECTIVE DATE This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from Nov 24, 2025 and after the required approval and publication according to law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF OAK HILL COUNCIL _____.

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bill Hannabass	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>	_____
Diana Janney	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Roger Evans	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Terry VanBuskirk	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>	_____
Tim Buskirk	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Carlos (PJ) Elder Jr.	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Chris Gill	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____

Presiding Officer



Charles H. Briscoe Jr., Mayor

City of Oak Hill

Attest



Valerie Vaughn, Clerk/Treasurer

City of Oak Hill