

Gertrude Walker
Supervisor of Elections
St. Lucie County

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June 7, 2021

Sally Walsh, CMC
City Clerk, City of Port Saint Lucie
121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984

Dear Ms. Walsh:

Pursuant to our recent discussions regarding the proposed special election to fill a vacancy in the City of Port Saint Lucie Mayor's seat, I have reviewed the City Charter and Code of Ordinances in conjunction with Florida's election laws to assist your office in determining a schedule for the election. As we discussed, there appear to be several areas in conflict both from a statutory and practical perspective; namely, the election schedule for filling vacancies in Section 2.09 of the Charter, the qualifying period set forth in Section 33.02 of the Code or Ordinances, and the mailing period required for vote-by-mail ballots under Section 101.62, Florida Statutes. Due to these conflicts, the Division of Elections has determined the election must be conducted utilizing F.S. 101.3605:

100.3605 Conduct of municipal elections.—

(1) The Florida Election Code, chapters 97-106, shall govern the conduct of a municipality's election in the absence of an applicable special act, charter, or ordinance provision. No charter or ordinance provision shall be adopted which conflicts with or exempts a municipality from any provision in the Florida Election Code that expressly applies to municipalities.

(2) The governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, change the dates for qualifying and for the election of members of the governing body of the municipality and provide for the orderly transition of office resulting from such date changes.

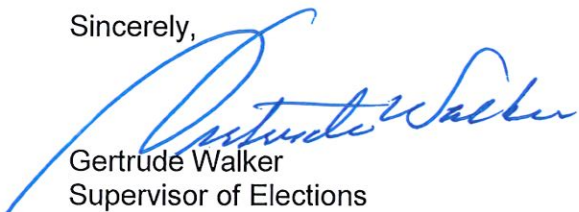
History.—s. 2, ch. 95-178.

For these reasons, the Council may wish to consider holding one election within ninety (90) days of the vacancy rather than both a primary and general election.

You have also requested a cost estimate to conduct the special election. Based upon past elections and the number of voters currently registered in the City, the estimated cost for an election is \$350,000. This amount can be greatly reduced based upon the options chosen by the City Council.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Gertrude Walker
Supervisor of Elections

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2021 City of Port St. Lucie - Special Election(s)

Estimated Cost of Election and Statute Reference

Item	Florida Statute(s)	Estimated Cost
Poll Workers - Election Day		\$ 55,000
Part Time Workers - Canvassing, etc.		\$ 7,000
Polling Place Rental - Various Precincts		\$ 7,000
Early Voting Staffing - 3 Locations	FS 101.657(e) - Providing Early Voting is Optional . FS 101.69 – Increased cost due to SB 90 result in required staff monitoring Drop Boxes during hours of operation	\$ 45,000
Ballots - Official & Test	FS 101.21	\$ 38,000
Sample Ballots	FS 101.20 - Producing and mailing sample ballots is optional . Sample ballots could be provided in a newspaper publication	\$ 25,000
Sample Ballot Postage	FS 101.20 - Optional	\$ 15,000
Ballot on Demand Materials		\$ 3,000
Communications - Cell Phones, etc.		\$ 5,000
Advertising - Newspapers, Radio - Optional	FS 101.20 & FS 101.5612	\$ 15,000
Vote by Mail Ballots		\$ 27,000
Vote by Mail Ballot Postage		\$ 12,000
Vote by Mail Ballots – Office Drop Box Monitoring	FS 101.69 – Increased cost due to SB 90 result in required staff monitoring Drop Boxes during hours of operation - Optional	\$ 6,000
Professional Services / Attorney	- Optional	\$ 7,000
Election Support - Equipment		\$ 8,000
Security - Sherriff Deputies		\$ 6,000
Temporary Staffing - Call Center, Support, etc.		\$ 15,000
Moving Company - Equip. Transport		\$ 8,000
Supplies & Miscellaneous		\$ 15,000
Estimated Total		\$ 319,000

Excluding Estimated Options

\$ -98,000
\$ 221,000