

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A NON-BINDING STRAW BALLOT QUESTION ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT, ASKING WHETHER THE ELECTORS SUPPORT AMENDING THE CITY'S SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT TO INCREASE RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE PICKUP TO TWICE PER WEEK AT AN INCREASED COST PER HOUSEHOLD; PROVIDING THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED STRAW BALLOT QUESTION; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS WITH A COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Port Saint Lucie ("City") has entered into a franchise agreement with FCC Environmental Services, Inc. for residential solid waste collection services; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the franchise agreement, residential curbside trash collection occurs once per week per household, excluding the collection of bulk trash, recycling, and yard waste; and

WHEREAS, since the commencement of the franchise agreement in 2022 there has been recurring debate and discussion as to whether the City should increase residential curbside trash collection to twice per week per household; and

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2025, the City Council reached consensus to place a straw ballot question on the 2026 General Election ballot to finally gauge public support for twice-weekly residential trash collection; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the best interest of the City's residents to determine the extent to which the City's residents support a change to twice weekly residential curbside trash pickup; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City's home rule powers under Section 166.021, Florida Statutes, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 101.161, Florida Statutes, the City Council desires to place a non-binding, straw ballot

question on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot to determine whether the City’s electors would support amending the franchise agreement to increase citywide residential curbside pickup services to twice per week, which would result in an increased solid waste assessment on each household.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Ratification of Recitals. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Non-binding Ballot Question. The following non-binding straw ballot question, prepared for clarity and compliance with Section 101.161, Florida Statutes, shall be placed on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot:

City of Port St. Lucie Non-Binding Straw Ballot Question

Proposed Increase to Your Tax Bill for an Extra Trash Pickup Day Per Week.

Would you support the City of Port St. Lucie increasing your solid waste assessment by at least \$131 in 2028 – with additional increases expected in later years – in order to amend its solid waste contract to provide twice-weekly residential trash pickup citywide starting in 2028 (excluding bulk, recycling, and yard waste)?

Ballot Choices

YES — *I would support amending the City’s solid waste contract to change citywide trash pickup service to twice-weekly for the estimated \$131 increase as set forth above.*

NO — *Keep once-per-week trash pickup per the City’s current solid waste contract.*

Section 3. Implementation and Authorization. The City Manager and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to carry out all necessary steps required to place the straw ballot question on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot. The City Clerk shall promptly provide a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Supervisor of Elections of St. Lucie County upon adoption, for placement of the straw ballot question on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot.

Section 4. Conflict. If any ordinances, or parts of ordinances, are in conflict herewith, this Ordinance shall control to the extent of the conflicting provisions.

Section 5. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are intended to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is determined to be void or is declared illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon final adoption on second reading.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie,
Florida, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

By:

Shannon M. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Richard Berrios, City Attorney