COUNCIL BILL NO. 2026-004 ORDINANCE NO. 2026-___

AN ORDINANCE submitting to the electors of the City of Joplin, Missouri, at a General Municipal Election to be held on the 7th day of April, 2026, proposed Charter Amendment No. 01 to the Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, as adopted November 6, 2007; and containing an emergency clause.

WHEREAS, the Council appointed a nine (9) member Charter Review Commission by Resolution No. 2025-009 on September 15, 2025, charging the Commission with reviewing certain sections of the City's Charter; and,

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission presented the results of their review including suggestions for the betterment and update of the current Charter to the City Council at its regular meeting on January 5, 2026, and the City Council approved two (2) of those recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, it is deemed by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, to be in the public interest to submit to the electors of the City of Joplin, at a General Municipal Election to be held in the City on the 7th day of April, 2026, an amendment to the Charter of said City November 6, 2007.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, as follows:

That there be submitted to the electors of the City of Joplin, Missouri, at a General Municipal Election to be held in said City, on the 7th day of April, 2026, the following amendment to the Charter of the City of Joplin, adopted November 6, 2007; said amendment to be as follows:

Section 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 01

That Article XIII. The Council, of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Mo., adopted November 6, 2007, be amended by amending Section 13.04. - Nominations by petitions, to reduce the number of signatures required for a nominating petition from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures for general council seats, and reduce the number of signatures for zone council seats from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures, with twenty-five (25) signatures within the candidate’s zone.

BE IT ADOPTED by the people of the City of Joplin, Missouri:

That Article XIII. The Council, of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Mo., adopted November 6, 2007, be amended by amending Section 13.04. - Nominations by petitions, to reduce the number of signatures required for a nominating petition from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures for general council seats, and reduce the number of signatures for zone council seats from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures, with twenty-five (25) signatures from within the candidate’s zone, so that Section 13.04 shall read as follows:

"Nominations of candidates for all elective offices shall be by petition. Petitions for zone councilmen shall be signed by not less than ~~one hundred~~ fifty (~~1~~50) registered voters of whom not

less than ~~seventy-five (75)~~ twenty-five (25) registered voters shall be registered voters in the zone in which the candidate for zone councilman resides. Petitions for general councilmen shall be signed by not less than one ~~hundred~~ fifty (~~1~~50) registered voters of the city. No voter shall sign more than one nominating petition for the same zone council position, and should a voter do so, his signature shall be void except as to the first petition filed. No voter shall sign more nominating petitions for general councilman than the number of general councilmen to be elected at the forthcoming election and should a voter do so, his signature shall be void except as to the aforesaid proper number of petitions which he has signed and which are first filed. Each signer of a petition shall designate his residence by street and number, or by other description sufficient to identify his place of residence, and precinct number. Nominating petitions shall contain the name, occupation, residence and precinct number of the person nominated, and the specific office (zone or general councilman) for which he is a candidate.

The signatures on the nominating petition need not be all appended to one paper, but each separate paper shall have a statement setting forth the election date; the office to be filled; and the name, occupation, residence and precinct number of the candidate on whose behalf the petition is being filed. In addition, there shall be attached to each such paper a signed statement of the circulator thereof, stating the number of signers of such paper, that each signature appended thereto was made in his presence, and is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be, and that he believes each such signer to be a legal voter.

Nominating petitions for regularly scheduled council elections shall be made available by the city clerk's office no sooner than ten (10) weeks before the date of final certification of the election as required by state law. Completed nominating petitions shall then be filed with the city clerk prior to two (2) weeks before the final certification date of the election as required by state law to allow two (2) weeks for finalizing the ballot before the election as prescribed.

Nominating petitions shall be in substantially the following form:

We, the undersigned registered voters of the City of Joplin, Missouri, respectfully petition and request the name of _____ residing at _____, occupation _____, precinct number _____, be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for the office of _____ to be voted for at the election to be held on the _____ day of _____, ___ and we, individually, signify that our names have appeared on the roll of registered voters within the last year, and that we are qualified to vote for this candidate:

NAME _____ PRECINCT _____, STREET AND NUMBER _____, DATE OF SIGNING _____

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned is the circulator of the foregoing paper containing _____ signatures. Each signature appended thereto was made in my presence and is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. I am a registered voter; qualified to vote for this candidate, and I believe each signer is a registered voter qualified to vote for this candidate.

Signature of circulator _____
Address _____

The clerk shall certify petitions in the order they are received.

Within ten days after the filing of a nominating petition the city clerk shall notify the candidate and the person who filed the petition whether or not it is found to be sufficient. If a petition is found insufficient, the city clerk shall return it immediately to the person who filed it with a statement certifying wherein the petition is found insufficient. Within the regular time for filing petitions a new or supplemental petition may be filed for the same candidate. The petition of each candidate nominated shall be preserved by the city clerk until the expiration of the term of office for which he has been nominated. Upon the filing and certification of a sufficient nominating petition each candidate shall, under oath, execute a declaration of candidacy / acceptance of nomination in conformance with state law.

"Shall Section 13.04 of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, be amended to reduce the number of signatures required for a nominating petition from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures for general council seats, and reduce the number of signatures for zone council seats from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures, with twenty-five (25) signatures from within the candidate's zone?"

Yes. ⬅ ____

No. ⬅ ____

Instructions to Voters

TO vote IN FAVOR OF Amendment 01, complete the arrow next to the word "YES".

TO vote AGAINST Amendment 01, complete the arrow next to the word "NO". "

Section 2. That said election shall be governed in all things by the provisions of the statutes of Missouri and Charter and ordinances of the City of Joplin, Missouri, relating to elections in the City insofar as the same are applicable and not in contravention with the particular provisions of this ordinance; said election shall be held at the respective voting districts of said City as set out in a Notice to be published by the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton County, Missouri, according to law. Said Notice shall include the question to be submitted as set forth herein, and a complete and detailed description of each and all precincts of said City, and, in said annexation area, in Jasper and Newton Counties, Missouri, to be published by the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton County, in a paper of general circulation in Joplin, Missouri, the publication of which to occur in accordance with Missouri law.

Section 3. That the City Clerk shall prepare and execute the form of the Notice of said election and shall transmit the same to the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton County, and request that they conduct said election as required by law.

Section 4. That the ballot shall be in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

"Shall Section 13.04 of the Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, be amended to reduce the number of signatures required for a nominating petition from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures for general council seats, and reduce the number of signatures for zone council seats from one-hundred fifty (150) signatures to fifty (50) signatures, with twenty-five (25) signatures from within the candidate's zone?"

CITY OF JOPLIN CHARTER

Election - Tuesday, April 7, 2026

SHALL THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

Yes, for Amendment 01. ← —

No, for Amendment 01. ← —

Instructions to Voters

TO vote IN FAVOR OF Amendment 01, complete the arrow next to the word "YES".

TO vote AGAINST Amendment 01, complete the arrow next to the word "NO". "

Section 5. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to deliver to the County Clerks of Jasper and Newton County, Missouri, a Notice of said election for publication as required by state statutes in a newspaper of general circulation in Joplin, Missouri, that at the Election to be held on the 7th day of April, 2026, in the City of Joplin, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this City at such election, the proposed new Charter to the Charter of the City hereinbefore referred to. The Notice of Election shall be published in accordance with the statutes and laws of the State of Missouri.

Section 6. The City Clerk shall canvas the results of the election as verified by the Jasper and Newton County Clerks and report the same to the Council at the next scheduled Council meeting following the election.

Section 7. That this Ordinance, being an Ordinance submitting a Charter Amendment to the voters, is an emergency within the meaning of Section 2.12(2) of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, and as such, this Ordinance shall become effective immediately from and after its adoption and approval.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this 20th day of January, 2026, by a vote of _____.

_____
Keenan T. Cortez, Sr.

ATTEST:

_____
Holly Nagy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Peter C. Edwards, City Attorney