

ORDINANCE NO. 5292

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MESA CITY COUNCIL, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, ADOPTING NEW TITLE 1, CHAPTER 33 "CANDIDATE ELECTION DATES", OF THE MESA CITY CODE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DATES AND TERM OF OFFICE FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER.

WHEREAS, Section 701(A) of the Mesa City Charter sets the primary election date for candidate elections on the last Tuesday of March of even-number years and the general election, if needed, on the 5th Tuesday following the primary election, and .

WHEREAS, the State Legislature amended A.R.S. 16-204 in 2006 to require cities with a population over 175,000, including charter cities, to hold primary and general elections in the fall, to align with elections for State offices, and

WHEREAS, Mesa's primary and general candidate elections were moved to August and November, pursuant to A.R.S 16-204, in 2010.

WHEREAS, the State was found to have exceeded its authority with respect to charter cities, thus Mesa is not bound by A.R.S. 16-204, as amended, and

WHEREAS, the cost of reverting back to election dates in March and holding off-cycle elections is significant, and,

WHEREAS, Section 701(F) of the Mesa City Charter gives the Council the authority to, by ordinance, change the primary and general election dates, for candidate elections, to align with the Mesa school district, the county, the state, or the federal government,

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the residents of Mesa to have Mesa elections aligned with state and federal elections,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA, ARIZONA:

SECTION 1. That Title 1 of the Mesa City Code is hereby amended by the adoption of a new Chapter 33, titled Candidate Election Dates, which shall read as follows:

1-33-1: DATE OF CANDIDATE ELECTIONS: The primary election for Candidates for the Offices of Mayor and Councilmember shall be held on the tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. The general election, if required, shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years.

1-33-2: TERM OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER: The term of office for the Office of Mayor and Councilmember shall commence on or after the first Monday in January in the year following the election and shall be for a period of four (4) years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Ordinance shall become effective 30-days after approval by the City Council.

SECTION 3: SEVERABILITY:

If any section, subsection, sentence clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance or any part of the material adopted herein by reference is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of a Court of competent jurisdiction such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona, this 15th day of June, 2015.



APPROVED:


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk