## ARTICLE 3. ELECTIONS

[SECTION 3.01. ELECTION AND COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.](#BK_FBD2333D30F55BA8C17F11F7FBD75C38)

[SECTION 3.02. RESERVED.](#BK_0CCF61C771B39B3C55F6C1EB409945D7)

[SECTION 3.03. NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS.](#BK_276381A89C58152C91361E7B0FE7FA9D)

[SECTION 3.04. QUALIFICATIONS AND FILING FEE.](#BK_5977BC70FD1BB41A6D5883C92DB86137)

[SECTION 3.05. RESERVED.](#BK_B330D253B84EE74259E434FDF771E669)

[SECTION 3.06. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS AND STATE LAWS.](#BK_B9D5D195E128D8F8BB7B4345CA8689F7)

[SECTION 3.07. CANVASSING ELECTIONS.](#BK_28A1D1C7D41927A46D21E424C4791A8B)

SECTION 3.01. ELECTION AND COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

A. The election of the Commissioners from even-numbered districts shall be held in 1994 and every four years thereafter and the election of Commissioners from odd-numbered districts shall be held in 1996 and every four years thereafter at the time of the state primary elections.

B. A candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected. Effective with the election for County Commission in 2004, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast there will be a runoff election at the time of the general election following the state primary election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. Should a tie result, the outcome shall be determined by lot.

C. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, beginning with the elections in 2004, the terms of office of the Mayor and County Commissioners shall commence on the second Tuesday next succeeding the date of the general election in November.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, effective with the term of Mayor scheduled to commence in October, 1996, no person shall be elected as Mayor for more than two consecutive four-year terms. Neither service as Mayor or County Commissioner prior to the terms scheduled to commence in October, 1996, nor service of a partial term subsequent to October, 1996, shall be considered in applying the term limitation provisions of this section.

E. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, effective with the term of Commissioners scheduled to commence in 2012, no person shall be elected as Commissioner for more than two consecutive four-year terms. No term of service as a Commissioner commencing prior to 2012 shall be considered a part of or counted toward the two term limit.

SECTION 3.02. RESERVED.

SECTION 3.03. NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS.

All elections for Mayor and the other members of the Board shall be nonpartisan and no ballot shall show the party designation of any candidate. No candidate shall be required to pay any party assessment or state the party of which he is a member or the manner in which he voted or will vote in any election.

SECTION 3.04. QUALIFICATIONS AND FILING FEE.

A. All candidates for the office of Mayor or County Commissioner shall qualify with the Clerk of the Circuit Court no earlier than the 84th day and no later than noon on the 70th day prior to the date of the election at which he is a candidate in the method provided by law or ordinance, and shall pay a filing fee of $300. All filing fees shall be paid into the general funds of the county.

B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person who seeks to qualify as a candidate for the office of Mayor or County Commissioner and who meets the petition requirements of this section is not required to pay the filing fee required by this section or any other qualifying fee required by the state (collectively the "Qualifying Fee"). A candidate who seeks to qualify without paying the Qualifying Fee must obtain the number of signatures of voters in the geographical area represented by the office sought equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of registered voters of that geographical area, as shown by the compilation by the Supervisor of Elections for the immediately preceding general election. Signatures may not be obtained until the candidate has filed the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository pursuant to state law. The format of the petition shall be prescribed by the Supervisor of Elections and shall be used by candidates to reproduce petitions for circulation. Each petition must be submitted before noon of the 28th day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought to the Supervisor of Elections. The Supervisor shall check the signatures on the petitions to verify their status as voters in the geographical area represented by the office sought. No later than the 7th day before the first day of the qualifying period, the Supervisor of Elections shall certify the number of valid signatures. The Supervisor of Elections shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained and shall notify the candidate. If the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate shall be eligible to qualify pursuant to this section without paying the Qualifying Fee.

SECTION 3.05. RESERVED.

SECTION 3.06. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS AND STATE LAWS.

A. The Board may adopt by ordinance any additional regulations governing elections not inconsistent with this Charter.

B. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by ordinance adopted hereunder the provisions of the election laws of this state shall apply to elections held under this Charter.

SECTION 3.07. CANVASSING ELECTIONS.

All elections under this Charter shall be canvassed by the County Canvassing Board as provided under the election laws of this state.