

## **ORDINANCE 2024-4027**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, TEXAS, ORDERING A REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF MAY 2025; DESIGNATING THE PLACES AND MANNER OF HOLDING THE ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR THE POSTING AND PUBLICATION OF NOTICE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; FINDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of La Porte will hold a regular municipal election for the election of City Council member positions designated as Councilperson At-Large Position A, Councilperson-District 4, and Councilperson-District 5, on the May 3, 2025, uniform election date.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** The regular municipal election of the City of La Porte, Texas, for election of members of the City Council as prescribed by Section 2.03 of the City Charter, shall be held between seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and seven o'clock (7:00) p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2025, in the city, for the purpose of electing Councilperson At-Large Position A, a Councilperson-District 4, and a Councilperson-District 5. A runoff election will be held, if necessary, on June 7, 2025, between seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and seven o'clock (7:00) p.m.

**SECTION 2.** The City is hereby divided into six (6) election precincts, corresponding to the boundaries of the six City Council single-member districts. The boundaries of such districts are as established, defined, and outlined in City of La Porte Ordinance 2023-3943. The polling places for these election precincts shall be as follows:

<u>Precinct/District</u>	<u>Polling Location</u>
1, 2, 3, and 6	LPISD's ITC Building, 9832 Spencer Highway, La Porte, 77571
4 and 5	City of La Porte City Hall Council Chamber, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, 77571

**SECTION 3.** This election shall be held in accordance with, and shall be governed by, the election laws of the State of Texas. The City Council has determined, pursuant to Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code, the City is authorized to enter into a joint election agreement with the La Porte Independent School District (LPISD), and other participating political subdivisions for this election. The City Secretary and Mayor are hereby authorized to perform all duties and take all actions as required by any election services contract(s) and/or joint election agreement(s) that may be authorized by the City Council.

**SECTION 4.** Any eligible and qualified person may have his or her name upon the official ballot as an independent candidate by submitting an application, which, in accordance with Texas Election Code Section 141.031, must be in writing and be signed and sworn to by the candidate and indicate that the candidate swears to the application. Such application for the general election may be filed with the City Secretary beginning on January 15, 2025, and must be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2025. Candidate filings will be accepted in the office of the City Secretary, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, 77571, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**SECTION 5.** The positions of Councilperson At-Large Position A, a Councilperson-District 4, and a Councilperson-District 5 shall each be elected and installed with the candidate that receives a majority vote of all the votes cast for the office for which he or she is a candidate and shall hold office for a period of three (3) years.

**SECTION 6.** Each candidate for the office of Councilperson At-Large Position A must be a resident qualified voter of the City for twelve (12) months immediately preceding election day. Each candidate for the office of Councilperson-District 4 and Councilperson-District 5 must be a resident qualified voter of the City for twelve (12) months immediately preceding election day and must also be a resident of the district for which he or she files for twelve (12) months immediately preceding election day, in accordance with Section 2.02(a) of the City Charter.

**SECTION 7.** Lee Woodward, City Secretary, is appointed as the Early Voting Clerk, and Maria Lawler, Deputy City Secretary, is appointed as the Deputy Early Voting Clerk, for joint early voting in person and voting by mail, and the City of La Porte City Hall, City Council Chamber, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, 77571, is hereby designated as the Main Early Voting Location for early voting for the election.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed, faxed, emailed, or delivered by common or contract carrier to:

Lee Woodward, City Secretary  
City of La Porte  
604 West Fairmont Parkway  
La Porte, Texas 77571

Phone: 281-470-5021 Fax: 281-842-3701 Email: [CitySecretary@LaPorteTX.gov](mailto:CitySecretary@LaPorteTX.gov)  
City website: [LaPorteTX.gov](http://LaPorteTX.gov) Election webpage: [LaPorteTX.gov/Elections](http://LaPorteTX.gov/Elections) or [/Elecciones](http://Elecciones)

who shall upon approval of the application provide balloting materials to the voter in accordance with the Texas Election Code.

An applicant for a ballot to be voted by mail (ABBM or federal postcard application (FPCA)) may submit the application by delivering it in person to the early voting clerk if the application is submitted not later than the close of regular business in the clerk's office on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (Texas Election Code Sec. 84.008). The last day for the early voting clerk to receive applications for a ballot to be voted by mail via mail (regardless of postmarked date), fax, common or contract carrier, or email, is Tuesday, April 22, 2025, (Texas Election Code Sec. 84.007(c)). If a voter submits an application for ballot by mail via fax or email or an FPCA by fax, the early voting clerk must receive an original or a copy with a wet signature via mail within four business days of the submission of the fax or email, in accordance with Election Code Sec. 84.007(b-1).

The places at which Early Voting by personal appearance shall be conducted are designated as the La Porte City Hall, 604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, (main early voting polling place), and the Instructional Technology Center (ITC Building), 9832 Spencer Highway, La Porte, Texas, (branch early voting polling place).

During the lawful early voting period, such Early Voting Clerk shall keep such locations for early voting open for early voting from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, beginning Tuesday, April 22, 2025, and continuing through Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

**SECTION 8.** Voting at said election, including early voting, shall be by the use of voting machines; and the ballots of said election shall conform to the Texas Election Code, as amended. The City Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to obtain, or cause to be obtained, the necessary electronic tabulating equipment, to arrange for the testing thereof as provided by law and to employ a duly qualified manager and a duly qualified tabulation supervisor to perform the duties respectively imposed on them by law with respect to the processing and tabulation of ballots at the Central Counting Station.

**SECTION 9.** The City Secretary of the City of La Porte shall issue notice of said election to be published one time in the official newspaper of the City, which has been found and declared to be a newspaper of general circulation in said City, not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the said election; in addition, notice of said election shall be posted on the bulletin board at City Hall not later than the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) day before election day and remain posted thorough election day.

**SECTION 10.** The Mayor and/or the City Secretary of the City of La Porte are hereby authorized to execute and/or issue, for and on behalf of the City, such orders, documents, and forms as may, from time to time, be promulgated by the Secretary of State of the State of Texas in conjunction with the election herein ordained.

**SECTION 11.** Each and every provision, paragraph, sentence, and clause of this ordinance has been separately considered and passed by the City Council of the City of La Porte, Texas, and each said provision would have been separately passed without any other provision; and if any provision hereof shall be ineffective, invalid or unconstitutional, for any cause, it shall not impair or affect the remaining portion, or any part thereof, but the valid portion shall be in force just as if it had been passed alone.

**SECTION 12.** The City Council officially finds, determines, recites, and declares that a sufficient written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of this meeting of the City Council was posted at a place convenient to the public at the City Hall of the City for the time required by law preceding this meeting, as required by Texas open meetings law, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code; and that this meeting has been open to the public as required by law at all times during which this ordinance and the subject matter thereof has been discussed, considered and formally acted upon. The City Council further ratifies, approves and confirms such written notice and the contents and posting thereof.

**SECTION 13.** This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024.

CITY OF LA PORTE, TEXAS

  
Rick Helton, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lee Woodward, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Clark T. Askins, City Attorney