

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-004**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BROWARD COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, AND TOWN ATTORNEY, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, performing all of the services associated with conducting a municipal election would be a tremendous burden for Town staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has utilized the services of the Broward County Supervisor of Elections ("Broward SOE") in all past elections to reduce that burden; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe Scott, the Broward SOE has requested that all municipalities utilizing the Broward SOE to conduct their elections enter into a new agreement outlining the services they will perform and the Town's responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Southwest Ranches desires to enter into this Agreement with the Broward SOE under the terms and conditions set forth hereinafter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** The above-referenced recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2.** The Town Council hereby approves an Agreement between the Town of Southwest Ranches and the Broward SOE for municipal election services as outlined in the Agreement attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference, as Exhibit "A".

**Section 3.** The Town Council hereby authorizes the Mayor, and Town Attorney to enter into the Agreement in substantially the same form as that attached hereto as Exhibit "A," and to make such modifications, additions, and/or deletions which they deem necessary and proper to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

**Section 4.** That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest

Ranches, Florida, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023 on a motion by

V. M. Allbritton and seconded by Chm Jablonski.

Breitkreuz	<u>Yes</u>
Allbritton	<u>Yes</u>
Hartmann	<u>Yes</u>
Jablonski	<u>Yes</u>
Kuczynski	<u>Yes</u>

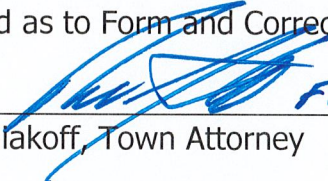
Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nays	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>
Abstaining	<u>0</u>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:

 For:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Pollakoff, Town Attorney  
1001.2392.01

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AGREEMENT

This Municipal Elections Agreement is between the Broward County Supervisor of Elections, a Broward County Constitutional Officer (“Supervisor”), and Town of Southwest Ranches, a municipal corporation (“Municipality”) (each a “Party” and collectively referred to as the “Parties”).

### RECITALS

- A. Supervisor has certain duties, functions, and responsibilities provided in the Florida Election Code (Chapters 97 through 106, Florida Statutes), as amended from time to time. Among Supervisor’s duties, functions, and responsibilities are the engagement, training, and assigning of Poll Workers (as hereinafter defined), in connection with federal, state, county, and certain municipal and district elections described in Chapter 102, Florida Statutes.
- B. Chapter 75-350, Laws of Florida (Special Acts 1975), as amended, provides for a uniform filing and election date for all municipal elections conducted in Broward County, Florida, and other matters affecting elections for all municipalities within Broward County, Florida.
- C. Municipality is responsible for all costs associated with conducting any of its elections, including without limitation all “election costs” as defined in Section 97.021(15), Florida Statutes.
- D. Supervisor possesses the requisite legal authority, expertise, personnel, and equipment to assist Municipality in selecting and training Poll Workers and conducting municipal election(s) in Broward County, Florida. Municipality desires to delegate to Supervisor the power, duty, and authority to conduct Municipality’s election(s) pursuant to the terms, conditions, and provisions of this Agreement.

Now, therefore, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

### ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Applicable Law** means all applicable federal, state, county, municipal, or other government entity laws, rules, regulations, codes, ordinances, advisory opinions, as amended from time to time, including without limitation, the provisions in Chapter 75-350, Laws of Florida (Special Acts of 1975), as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- 1.2. **Broward County Supervisor of Elections or Supervisor** means Joe Scott in his official capacity as the Broward County Supervisor of Elections or the then-current duly elected or appointed successor, as applicable.
- 1.3. **Election Fees** means all fees, costs, charges, and expenses associated with the Municipal Elections and Supervisor’s performance of the Election Services, including without limitation “election costs” as defined in Section 97.021(15), Florida Statutes, and amounts paid or due to Poll Workers.

1.4. **Election Services** means the duties, functions, obligations, and work required by Supervisor to conduct the Municipal Elections and any additional services agreed to by the Parties and provided for in a written amendment to this Agreement.

1.5. **Municipal Election(s)** means the Municipality's elections within the scope of Article 2 of this Agreement or within the scope of any amendment to this Agreement.

1.6. **Stand-Alone Election(s)** means a municipal election held when only municipal races are on the ballot and there is no early voting period, or when no other federal or state election is being held.

1.7. **Poll Worker(s)** means trained and paid individuals who are active voters and provide various election related services at precincts or Polling Locations on election day or during early voting periods. Poll Workers include the positions and job descriptions listed and defined on Supervisor's website at: <https://www.browardvotes.gov/Poll-Worker-Information/Become-a-Poll-Worker>.

1.8. **Polling Location(s)** means a building designated by Supervisor where voters cast their ballots during an election, such as a school or a library.

## ARTICLE 2. SCOPE OF ELECTION SERVICES

2.1. Municipal Elections. Municipality hereby engages Supervisor to perform Election Services in connection with the Municipal Elections regularly scheduled to occur in 2024. If Municipality desires Supervisor to perform Election Services for any special or additional municipal elections other than those regularly scheduled during the Term ("Additional Elections"), the terms, conditions, and services relating to such Additional Elections shall be agreed to by both Parties and set forth in an amendment executed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

2.2. Cost Estimates. Supervisor has provided to Municipality, and Municipality acknowledges receipt of, the applicable schedule of Election Fees. A current estimate of the Election Fees associated with the applicable Municipal Elections is attached hereto as Exhibit A ("Cost Estimate"). The Cost Estimate is subject to adjustment based on the actual costs incurred by Supervisor and does not include other necessary costs as provided for in Section 3.8 of this Agreement, if any.

2.3. Final Invoice. For each Municipal Election, Supervisor will provide Municipality with a final invoice, which includes the actual Election Fees associated with the applicable Municipal Election, within six (6) months after the date of the applicable Municipal Election ("Final Invoice").

2.4. Polling Locations. Except as otherwise provided in Section 3.2 and Applicable Law, Supervisor shall select and designate Polling Locations (including early voting locations) in Supervisor's sole and absolute discretion.

2.5. Poll Workers. Except as otherwise provided by Applicable Law, Supervisor shall select, hire, assign, and train an appropriate number of Poll Workers for the Municipal Elections, as determined by Supervisor in Supervisor's sole and absolute discretion.

2.6. Payment of Poll Workers. Supervisor shall set the pay rate for Poll Workers and pay Poll Workers in accordance with Applicable Law.

2.7. County Voting System. Except as otherwise required by Applicable Law, Supervisor shall use Broward County's current voting equipment and systems in the performance of the Election Services, and Supervisor shall determine, in Supervisor's sole and absolute discretion, the manner in which to use such voting systems and the type and number of such equipment to be used for each applicable Municipal Election.

2.8. Vote by Mail. If the Municipal Elections will be conducted during a federal or state election, Supervisor shall provide vote by mail/absentee ballots to Municipality's residents in the same manner as the federal or state election pursuant to Applicable Law. Vote by mail ballots for any Stand-Alone Election shall be subject to Supervisor's sole and absolute discretion, and Municipality shall pay Supervisor for any fees and costs associated with any such vote by mail operations and materials.

### **ARTICLE 3. MUNICIPALITIES OBLIGATIONS**

3.1. Supervisor's Compensation and Method of Payment. For each applicable Municipal Election, Municipality shall reimburse Supervisor for the Elections Fees incurred and for any other necessary costs as provided for in Section 3.8 herein. Municipality shall timely pay Supervisor all amounts invoiced by Supervisor within thirty (30) days after receipt of Supervisor's Final Invoice. Payment shall be made to Supervisor at the address stated in Section 5.1 and pursuant to the instructions prescribed by Supervisor or Supervisor's authorized designee. Municipality's payment obligation includes all Election Fees incurred by Supervisor, including any other necessary costs as provided for in Section 3.8 herein, which may be in excess of the Cost Estimate attached as Exhibit A or otherwise provided to Municipality by Supervisor.

3.2. Polling Locations. Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the applicable Municipal Election, Municipality may provide in writing to Supervisor proposed Polling Locations for such Municipal Election, which locations shall be subject to final review and approval by Supervisor. Municipality shall provide copies of the rental agreements or other documentation for the utilization of the Polling Locations consistent with the provisions of this section. For Municipal Elections conducted during a federal or state election, the Polling Locations will be determined by Supervisor in Supervisor's sole and absolute discretion.

3.2.1. Use of Polling Locations. For each applicable Municipal Election, Supervisor shall pay the rental costs and fees for the use of Polling Locations and such costs shall be included in the Election Fees set forth in the Cost Estimate and the Final Invoice for reimbursement by Municipality.

3.2.2. Municipality's Additional Responsibilities for Polling Locations. Municipality is responsible for: (a) providing adequate security for the Polling Location(s); (b) fully cooperating with Supervisor to comply with any Applicable Law related to the Polling Location(s), including any standards or guidelines from the Florida Secretary of State's Division of Elections; (c) ensuring compliance with Supervisor's then-existing security standards for Polling Locations; (d) entering into written use, license, or other rental agreements for the use of the sites on the terms and conditions set forth in

any form(s) provided by Supervisor for such purpose or otherwise approved in advance by Supervisor; (e) the repair and maintenance of the Polling Location(s) in good structural and safe condition in compliance with Applicable Law, including without limitation the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; and (f) ensuring that the Polling Locations comply with all other Applicable Laws.

3.2.3. Polling Location Changes. Municipality shall be responsible for and shall pay all costs incurred by Supervisor as a result of Polling Location changes requested by Municipality, including all costs associated with providing written notice to voters.

3.3. Cooperation with Supervisor. Municipality shall promptly provide any and all documents, information, and cooperation reasonably requested by Supervisor in connection with Supervisor's performance of the Election Services and any other applicable duties and obligations under this Agreement.

3.4. No Legal Advice; Municipality's Responsible Person. Municipality shall be responsible for obtaining its own legal advice and determinations of Applicable Law related to the Municipal Elections, including candidate qualifications and eligibility, petitions, referendums, and special elections. Municipality acknowledges and agrees that Supervisor has no obligation to and expressly disclaims the provision of any legal advice, legal opinions, and legal guidance to Municipality in connection with the performance of Supervisor's obligations under this Agreement. Prior to each Municipal Election, Municipality shall identify in writing and provide to Supervisor the contact information for the municipal official(s) who shall act as Supervisor's point of contact for Municipality and who shall also be the municipal official responsible for ensuring the performance and oversight of Municipality's obligations in this Agreement with regard to the Municipal Election ("Municipality's Responsible Person").

3.5. Candidate Qualifications. Subject to Applicable Law, Municipality shall be responsible for and shall conduct any municipal candidate qualifications, determinations of eligibility to run, and collection of any election assessment. Municipality shall accept and process all qualifying papers and fees from such candidates and, at the end of the qualification period, Municipality shall promptly provide Supervisor with a list of all qualified candidates. If Municipality requires Supervisor to verify signatures for candidate qualifying petitions or any other petitions permitted under Applicable Law, Municipality shall pay Supervisor's fees and costs for such verifications and Supervisor shall perform such verifications in the same manner it performs verifications for state candidates, except as provided by Applicable Law.

3.6. Notifications. Municipality shall be responsible for providing and publishing all public notices and any other required notices to candidates, political parties, and political committees, including without limitation recount notices.

3.7. Ballots; Other Election Material; and Translations. Upon conclusion of the qualifying period, Municipality shall furnish immediately to Supervisor all ballot information in English, Spanish, and Creole, including the name of the candidates as they are to appear on the ballot and any pronunciation guides, the name of Municipality, the name of the Municipal Election, the titles of office(s), and any referendum titles, explanations, or questions. Municipality shall be solely

responsible for all translation costs. Further, Municipality agrees to promptly approve layout and ballot proof(s) provided by Supervisor, and Municipality shall be responsible for and shall ensure that all Municipal Election materials, including required notices and ballots, are accurate and legally sufficient.

3.8. Other Necessary Costs. Municipality shall reimburse Supervisor for any additional costs or fees not otherwise expressly provided for in this Agreement incurred as a result of a Municipal Election, including without limitation, costs associated with conducting a recount, attorneys' fees and costs incurred by Supervisor in any matter related to a Municipal Election, and costs caused by any negligence, mistake, or intentional act or omission by Municipality, its employees, officers, commissioners, or agents.

#### **ARTICLE 4. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY**

Except to the extent sovereign immunity may be deemed waived by entering into this Agreement, nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity by either Party nor shall anything included herein be construed as consent by either Party to be sued by a third party in any matter arising out of this Agreement. Each Party is a state agency or political subdivision as defined in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and shall be responsible for the acts and omissions of its agents or employees to the extent required by applicable law. This section shall survive the termination of all performance or obligations under this Agreement.

#### **ARTICLE 5. NOTICES AND PUBLIC RECORDS**

5.1. In order for a notice to a Party to be effective under this Agreement, notice must be sent via U.S. first-class mail, hand delivery, or commercial overnight delivery, each with a contemporaneous copy via e-mail, to the addresses listed below, and shall be effective upon mailing or hand delivery (provided the contemporaneous email is also sent). Addresses may be changed by the applicable Party giving notice of such change in accordance with this section.

##### Notices to Supervisor:

Attn: Joe Scott, Supervisor of Elections  
115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 102  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
E-mail: [jscott@browardvotes.gov](mailto:jscott@browardvotes.gov)

##### *With a copy to:*

Broward County Attorney's Office  
Attn: Devona A. Reynolds Perez  
115 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 423  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
Email addresses: [dreynoldsperez@broward.org](mailto:dreynoldsperez@broward.org)

Notices to Municipality:

Attn: Russell Muñiz/Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk (name and title)

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33026

Email address: rmuñiz@southwestranches.org

*With a copy to:*

Keith Poliakoff - Government Law Group

200 S Andrews Avenue, STE 601, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Email address: keith@govlawgroup.com

5.2. Public Records. The Parties are public agencies subject to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and each Party shall comply with its respective obligations as provided by law. In providing the Election Services, Supervisor does not assume and expressly disclaims any designation or delegation as custodian of Municipality's election records. In the event of an election contest or challenge, Supervisor agrees to cooperate in providing any public records that the Supervisor maintains or otherwise controls.

**ARTICLE 6. Disputes; Governing Law, Venue, and Waiver of Jury Trial**

6.1. Dispute Resolution; Attorneys' Fees. Should a dispute arise regarding the interpretation of this Agreement or the performance of either Party, the Parties shall complete dispute resolution proceedings pursuant to Chapter 164, Florida Statutes, prior to commencing a legal action. Each Party shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs, including in Chapter 164 proceedings and at both the trial and appellate levels.

6.2. Law, Jurisdiction, Venue, Waiver of Jury Trial. The terms, provisions, covenants, and conditions of this Agreement shall be construed solely in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. The Parties agree that the exclusive venue for any lawsuit arising from, related to, or in connection with this Agreement shall be in the state courts of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida. If any claim arising from, related to, or in connection with this Agreement must be litigated in federal court, the Parties agree that the exclusive venue for any such lawsuit shall be in the United States District Court or United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. **EACH PARTY HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVES ANY RIGHTS IT MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY OF ANY CIVIL LITIGATION RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT.**

**ARTICLE 7. TERM; TERMINATION**

7.1. Unless earlier terminated as provided in this Agreement, the term of this Agreement shall be from the date of its full execution (the "Effective Date") until sixty (60) days after the election results has been certified, all vote processing equipment has been returned to Supervisor's warehouse, and an audit, if applicable, has been completed for the last regularly scheduled Municipal Election covered by this Agreement.



7.2. Unless a Municipal Election is scheduled to occur within the next ninety (90) days, this Agreement may also be terminated for convenience upon written notice by either Party, effective on the termination date stated in the written notice provided by the terminating Party, which termination date shall be not less than thirty (30) days after the date of such written notice. If this Agreement is terminated, Supervisor shall be paid for the Election Fees incurred through the effective date of termination and any other necessary costs provided for in Section 3.8. The payment obligations of Municipality under this Agreement shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 8. MISCELLANEOUS**

8.1. Materiality and Waiver of Breach. Each requirement, duty, and obligation set forth in this Agreement was bargained for at arm's-length and is agreed to by the Parties. Each requirement, duty, and obligation set forth in this Agreement is substantial and important to the formation of this Agreement, and each is, therefore, a material term. Supervisor's failure to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of such provision or modification of this Agreement. A waiver of any breach shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of this Agreement. To be effective, any waiver must be in writing signed by an authorized signatory of the Party granting the waiver.

8.2. Severability. If any part of this Agreement is found to be unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, that part shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and the balance of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

8.3. Prior Agreements. This Agreement represents the final and complete understanding of the Parties regarding the subject matter and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous negotiations and discussions regarding that subject matter. There is no commitment, agreement, or understanding concerning the subject matter of this Agreement that is not contained in this written document.

8.4. Amendments. No modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be effective unless contained in a written document executed with the same formality and of equal dignity herewith.

8.5. No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Neither Supervisor nor Municipality intends to primarily benefit a third party by this Agreement. Therefore, the Parties acknowledge that there are no third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement and that no third party shall be entitled to assert a right or claim against either of them based upon this Agreement.

8.6. Joint Preparation and Interpretation. This Agreement has been jointly prepared by the Parties and shall not be construed more strictly against either Party. The titles and headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. All personal pronouns used in this Agreement shall include any other gender, and the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa, unless the context otherwise requires. Terms such as "herein" refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular sentence, paragraph, or section where they appear, unless the context otherwise

requires. Whenever reference is made to a section or article of this Agreement, such reference is to the section or article as a whole, including all subsections thereof, unless the reference is made to a particular subsection or subparagraph of such section or article. Any reference to “days” means calendar days, unless otherwise expressly stated.

8.7. Priority of Provisions. If there is a conflict or inconsistency between any term, statement, requirement, or provision of any document or exhibit attached hereto or referenced or incorporated herein and any provision of Articles 1 through 8 of this Agreement, the provisions contained in Articles 1 through 8 shall prevail and be given effect.

8.8. Counterparts and Multiple Originals. This Agreement may be executed in multiple originals, and may be executed in counterparts, whether signed physically or electronically, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement. This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of each of the Parties hereto.

8.9. Independent Contractor. Supervisor is acting as an independent contractor for Municipality in the performance of Election Services under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement constitutes or creates a partnership, joint venture, or any other relationship between the Parties. Neither Party nor its agents shall act as officers, employees, or agents of the other Party. Neither Party shall have the right to bind the other Party to any obligation not expressly undertaken by that Party under this Agreement.

8.10. Incorporation by Reference. Any and all Recital clauses above are true and correct and are incorporated in this Agreement by reference. The attached Exhibits are incorporated and made a part of this Agreement.

8.11. Representation of Authority. Each individual executing this Agreement on behalf of a Party hereto hereby represents and warrants that they are, on the date they sign this Agreement, duly authorized by all necessary and appropriate action to execute this Agreement on behalf of such Party and does so with full legal authority.

8.12. Nondiscrimination. No Party may discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or gender identity and expression in the performance of this Agreement.

(The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement:  
BROWARD COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, JOE SCOTT, and MUNICIPALITY, signing by and  
through its \_\_\_\_\_ duly authorized to execute same.

SUPERVISOR

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Scott, Broward County Supervisor of Elections

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_

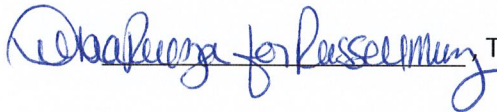
Approved as to form by  
Andrew J. Meyers  
Broward County Attorney  
115 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 423  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
Telephone: (954) 357-7600

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Devona A. Reynolds Perez (Date)  
Assistant County Attorney

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AGREEMENT

Town of Southwest Ranches  
MUNICIPALITY

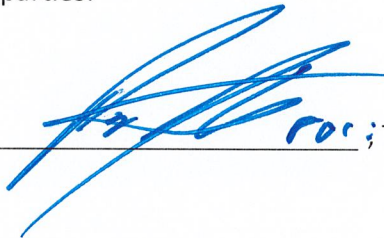
ATTEST:

 Town Clerk

By:   
Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

16 day of October, 2023

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have approved this Agreement as to form and legal sufficiency subject to execution by the parties:

; Town Attorney

**EXHIBIT A - Municipal Election Cost Estimate**

Description	Cost per registered voter in Municipality
Election Fees for March Elections (if a Presidential Preference Primary) and November General Elections:	
Ballot Materials	\$0.70
Each Extra Ballot Page Side	(\$0.15 x number of registered voters)
Stand-Alone Election	\$3.35
<b>Estimate of Municipality's Total Number of Registered Voters: 6,068</b>	<b>Estimated March Election (if PPP) and November General Election Cost: \$4,250 (rounded)</b>  <b>Estimated cost with extra ballot page(s):</b> <b>\$5,160 w/ extra 1 page</b> <b>\$6,070 w/ extra 2 pages</b>