

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-006

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, SUBMITTING TO REFERENDUM AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN'S CHARTER; PROPOSING THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT: TO AMEND Article II "TOWN COUNCIL; MAYOR" SECTION 2.07 "COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES" TO INCREASE THE COUNCIL MEMBERS' AND MAYOR'S COMPENSATION WHILE ALSO ADDING A MAXIMUM THREE PERCENT (3%) ANNUAL COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE BASED UPON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS ("CPI-W"); DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO PROVIDE FOR A NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT OF THE REFERENDUM ELECTION TO BE PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA ELECTION CODE; SUBMITTING THE REFERENDUM TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION; PROVIDING THAT SUCH REFERENDUM, IF ADOPTED, SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS PROVIDED BY LAW; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 7.02 (a)(1) of the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches provides that the Town Council may by Ordinance propose amendments to the Town's Charter; and

WHEREAS, upon passage of the initiating Ordinance the proposed amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the electors at the next general election; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 7.02(c) of the Town's Charter, a sixty (60) percent vote or greater is required for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires its electorate to determine if the Town's Charter should be amended to increase the Town Councils' and Mayor's compensation and provide an annual cost-of-living adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment modifies the Mayor's monthly compensation from \$1,250.00 to \$2,000.00 per month and the Council's compensation from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 per month with an annual maximum three percent (3%) cost-of-living increase based upon the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers ("CPI-W").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance upon adoption hereof.

Section 2. The Town Council hereby directs the Town Administrator to prepare a referendum for the November 3, 2026 general election proposing an amendment to the Town's Charter, as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached, and in accordance with the Ballot Questions contained in Exhibit "B," attached hereto, with such changes as may be required by the Supervisor of Elections' Office to effectuate the intent of this Ordinance.

Section 3. The Town Council hereby directs the Town Administrator to seek approval from the Supervisor of Elections to place this proposed Charter Amendment on the general election ballot, to allow the Town's electorate to determine if the Charter should be amended.

Section 4. Codification.

It is the intention of the Town Council that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Charter of the Town, and that the Sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered, re-lettered and the word "Ordinance" may be changed to "Section," "Article," or such other word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention.

Section 5. Severability.

If any clause, section, or other part of this Ordinance shall be held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutional or invalid part shall be considered as eliminated and in no way affecting the validity of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Conflicts.

That all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, Resolutions, or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 7. Effective Date.

That this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Signatures on Following Page

PASSED ON FIRST READING this 9th day of April, 2026 on a motion made by Council Member Kuczenski and seconded by Council Member Hartmann.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND READING this 23rd day of April, 2026 on a motion made by C/M KUCZENSKI and seconded by C/M HARTMANN.

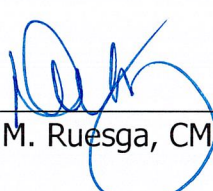
Breitkreuz YES
Jablonski YES
Allbritton YES
Hartmann YES
Kuczenski YES

Ayes 5
Nays /
Absent /
Abstaining /



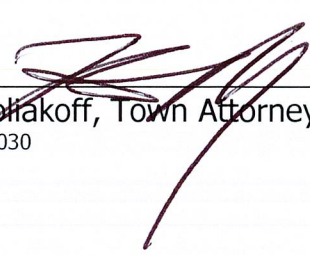
Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

Attest:



Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Keith Pollakoff, Town Attorney
1001.2026.030

EXHIBIT "A"

CHARTER AMENDMENT

The Electorate shall be asked whether the Charter should be amended to effectuate the following change:

1. Section 2.07 – Compensation; reimbursement for expenses.

(a) The Council members shall be compensated at the rate of ~~\$1,000~~ \$1,500.00 per month. The Mayor shall be compensated at the rate of ~~\$1,250.00~~ \$2,000.00 per month with a maximum annual three percent (3%) cost-of-living increase based upon the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers ("CPI-W"). The amount of the Council's compensation can only be increased, above the previously stated amounts, by the electorate in a referendum held in conjunction with the even-numbered year general election. The Council may decrease its compensation by Ordinance at any time. In addition to the aforementioned, the Council members and Mayor may participate in the Florida Retirement System, provided that the Town is not required to pay an additional amount for that Council member or Mayor's participation. The Mayor and Council shall receive reimbursements in accordance with applicable law, or as may be otherwise provided by ordinance, for authorized travel and per diem expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

EXHIBIT "B"

**SAMPLE BALLOT QUESTION
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

**SOUTHWEST RANCHES
AMENDMENT # 1
COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES**

Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be amended to increase the Council's monthly compensation from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 and the Mayor's monthly compensation from \$1,250.00 to \$2,000.00, with a maximum annual three percent (3%) cost-of-living increase based upon the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers?

Shall the above-described amendment be adopted?

YES ☐

NO ☐