

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON A CERTAIN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, THE COUNCIL, SUBSECTION (b), QUALIFICATIONS, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS BY PROHIBITING ALL OTHER PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS: Elected members of the City of North Royalton are entrusted with the responsibility to make decisions and take actions that serve the public interest of North Royalton; and

WHEREAS: Elected members of the City of North Royalton may gain access to privileged information pertaining to business, economic, and financial interests within the City of North Royalton in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS: Elected members, through committees and meetings, including those held under Executive Session, can discuss sensitive matters such as the purchase or sale of property. These discussions are held in confidence to avoid giving a competitive advantage to external parties, as specified under division (G)(2) of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. The confidentiality of such information is essential to ensure fair and impartial decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS: The potential personal benefit derived from using this privileged information, such as poaching businesses from one city to another or receiving donations and support from special interests with economic gains, creates a significant conflict of interest. Engaging in any interest, business, transaction, or professional activity, or incurring any obligation that conflicts with the proper discharge of their duties in the public interest undermines the fairness and impartiality required for effective governance; and

WHEREAS: In order to provide for these modifications, it is necessary to amend Article III, The Council, Subsection (b), Qualifications, of the Charter of the City of North Royalton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

Section 1. Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution and Article XVIII, Subsection (e) of the Charter of the City of North Royalton, the Council hereby authorizes and directs the submission to the electors of the City of North Royalton, at an election to be held in usual places of voting in said City on November 7, 2023, amendments to Article III, the Council, Subsection (b), Qualifications which shall upon adoption read as follows:

**ARTICLE III, THE COUNCIL**

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.

Candidates for Council shall have resided in the Municipality and have been an elector thereof for a period of at least two (2) years next preceding his or her election. Each ward Councilmember must have lived in his or her ward at least one (1) year prior to election and must continue to live in the ward he or she represents during his or her entire term of office. No member of Council, except as hereinafter provided in this Charter *or by ordinance*, shall hold any other elected public office or *any other public employment* ~~be employed by the Municipality~~, except that of notary public or member of the State Militia, or Reserve Corps of the United States, or be directly or indirectly involved in the disbursement of public moneys of North Royalton, except while performing his or her duties as Councilperson.

To the extent as provided by law, no member of Council shall directly or indirectly solicit, contract for, receive or be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service with or for the Municipality. Any member who ceases to possess any of the qualifications herein set forth, or who removes from the Municipality, shall thereby forfeit his or her office.

