

# THE CITY COUNCIL OF NORTH ROYALTON, OHIO

ORDINANCE NO. 23-69

INTRODUCED BY: Nickell, Barath, Krejci, Dietrich, Webber, Wos

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON A CERTAIN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, THE COUNCIL, SUBSECTION (c), TERM; WARDS, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TERMS OF FOUR (4) YEARS IN LENGTH FOR ALL COUNCIL WARDS AND FOR TERM LIMITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS: Terms for Ward Council representatives are now two (2) years in length requiring elections for those offices be held every two (2) years; and

WHEREAS: Holding such “ward only” elections every two (2) years creates unnecessary public expense and inconvenience to the voting public; and

WHEREAS: Council believes that the best interests of the community would be better served by extending the regular terms of the ward council representatives to four (4) years with the terms commencing January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS: In order to provide for these modifications, it is necessary to amend Article III, The Council, Subsection (c), Term; Wards, 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 (c), Terms; Wards which shall upon adoption read as follows:

## ARTICLE III, THE COUNCIL

(c) TERM; WARDS.

***Beginning with the November general election of 2025, each Ward Councilperson is to shall serve for a term of ~~two (2)~~ four (4) years commencing with the November election of 1979 January 1, 2026 and every ~~two (2)~~ four (4) years thereafter. No person elected Ward Councilperson shall hold the office for a period longer than six (6) consecutive terms or more than twelve (12) consecutive years, unless one (1) full term or more has elapsed since that person last held the position of Ward Councilperson. more than three (3) consecutive terms. Council service prior to January 1, 2026 shall not be counted for purposes of these term limits. Existing Charter provisions shall apply through December 31, 2025.***

Not later than February 28, 1979, the then incumbent Council shall by ordinance establish six (6) wards for election purposes, each of which shall be as nearly equal in population to each of the others as shall be practicable. Each ward shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory within the Municipality bounded by street lines and natural boundaries. Such equality of population shall be maintained by the Council by an adjustment of such boundaries as follows: Each four (4) years, commencing in the year of 1978, the Council shall make or cause to be made a survey of the population changes in the respective wards and enter a written report thereof upon its journal. In the event such survey discloses a decrease or an increase of population amounting to fifteen percent (15%) or more in any ward, an equalizing adjustment of boundaries shall be made by an ordinance of Council. Equalizing adjustments of boundaries may be made at more frequent intervals, if desired by Council, but no adjustment shall be effective with respect to any Municipal election unless the ordinance providing for such adjustment has been passed and publication or posting thereof has been completed at least ninety (90) days prior to the last date for filing nominating petitions for candidates in such election.

Section 2. The ballot for said question shall be in substantially the following form:

**PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT**  
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON BE AMENDED TO LIMIT THE TERMS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE III SUBSECTION (c) TO READ IN PART:

BEGINNING WITH THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION OF 2025, EACH PERSON ELECTED WARD COUNCILPERSON SHALL, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026, HOLD THE OFFICE OF WARD COUNCILPERSON FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS; NO PERSON ELECTED WARD COUNCILPERSON SHALL HOLD THE OFFICE FOR MORE THAN THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE TERMS. COUNCIL SERVICE PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2026 SHALL NOT BE COUNTED FOR PURPOSES OF THESE TERM LIMITS. EXISTING CHARTER PROVISIONS SHALL APPLY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025.

	YES
	NO

Section 3. The foregoing proposed amendment, if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the aforesaid election to be held on November 7, 2023, shall become a part of the Charter of this City and shall be effective as of the date that said amendment or amendments have been certified by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections as having been approved by a majority of the voters.

Section 4. The Director of Legislative Services in her capacity as Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to deliver immediately to the Board of Elections a certified copy of this Ordinance.

Section 5. The Director of Legislative Services in her capacity as Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed, pursuant to laws passed by the General Assembly, to give notice of these proposed amendments by newspaper advertising.

Section 6. There shall be and hereby is appropriated from the General Fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of printing and mailing copies of said proposed Charter amendment to the electors for publishing such election notice, and other costs incidental to carrying out the terms of this Ordinance.

Section 7. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 8. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the city, and for the further reason that this Ordinance must be effective immediately in order to permit necessary arrangements to be made in sufficient time for said election.

THEREFORE, provided this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

/s/ Paul F. Marnecheck  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: /s/ Larry Antoskiewicz  
MAYOR

DATE PASSED: June 20 2023

DATE APPROVED: June 21, 2023

ATTEST: /s/ Dana A. Schroeder  
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

First reading June 6, 2023  
Second reading suspended  
Third reading June 20, 2023

YEAS: Nickell, Barath, Krejci,  
Dietrich, Webber, Wos

NAY: Marnecheck