

**ORDINANCE NO. 296-26
CITY OF COLUMBUS, TEXAS**

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING AND ORDERING A GENERAL
ELECTION FOR CITY OFFICERS TO BE HELD ON MAY
2, 2026 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THREE
COUNCILMEMBERS.**

Section I.

A general election is hereby ordered to be held on May 2, 2026 for the purpose of electing three (3) Councilmembers for the City of Columbus, Texas. All voting conducted within this election shall be pursuant to the cumulative voting style. An Election Order, attached as Exhibit "A" is incorporated by reference herein, and is hereby adopted and ordered.

Section II.

A candidate's application for a place on the ballot for the general election must be filed by **5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026**. The earliest for a candidate to file an application for a place on the ballot in person will be **January 14, 2026 at 8:00 AM**.

Section III.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at the Colorado County Main Election Center, located at 1117 Travis Street, Columbus, Texas 78934, between the hours of **7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. beginning on April 20, 2026 and ending April 28, 2026. Sunday, April 26, 2026, voting is between the hours 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

Section IV.

The City Council hereby appoints the Colorado County Elections Administrator as the election officer for the sole purpose of conducting the election, early voting related thereto, tabulation of votes and the custody of any records from such election. This appointment includes services as the Early Voting Clerk for the Election, including for the receipt of applications and ballots for early voting by mail.

The rate of pay for each election judge shall be \$12.00 per hour and each clerk shall be \$10.00 per hour. In addition, the presiding judge responsible for delivering the ballots and other election materials and records to the return center shall be paid \$25.00 for such delivery.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

Colorado County Elections Center
c/o Rebecka LaCourse, Election Administrator
1117 Travis Street
Columbus, Texas 78934

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 20, 2026.

Section V.

The location of the polling place for the May 2, 2026 election shall be held at the Colorado County Election Center at 1117 Travis Street, Columbus, TX 78934 for all precincts. If county-wide voting is in effect on election day, the list of all polling places will be posted on the City's bulletin board used for posting notices of the meetings of the Columbus City Council.

The polling places shall be kept open from seven o'clock (7) a.m. until seven o'clock (7) p.m. on May 2, 2026 and due returns shall be made to the City Council showing the number of votes cast for each candidate for membership on the City Council.

Section VI.

The Colorado County Elections Administrator is hereby ordered and directed to prepare and issue ballots for said elections and to mark same as "Official Ballot." Said ballots shall be printed in English and in Spanish for use in said elections. Said ballots shall be suitable for use with a paper ballot voting system and other appropriate voting systems as required by law and shall otherwise conform to the requirements of the Texas Election Code so as to permit the voters to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Section VII.

The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a contract for election services, if necessary, between the Colorado County Elections Administrator and the City of Columbus for services or equipment to be provided on May 2, 2026, and these services or equipment shall include, but not be limited to, those services or equipment specified in said contract.

Section VIII.

Notice of said elections shall be posted by the City Secretary and shall be distributed by: 1) publishing notice of the elections, in English and Spanish, at least once, not earlier than the 30th day nor later than the 10th day before election day, in a newspaper of general circulation in the said City; and 2) not later than the 21st day before election day, by posting notice of the elections, in English and Spanish, on the City's bulletin board used for posting notices of the meetings of the Columbus City Council.

Section IX.

The way and manner of holding said elections, the notice to be given therefore, the polling places, the personnel and the officers who are to hold same, and all details connected with the holding of the elections shall be provided for and arranged by the City Secretary. Any omission or irregularity in the notice of elections or in the publication or posting of the notice of elections, or in the signing of same, shall not in any way affect or invalidate such elections.

Section X.

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this ordinance was adopted and said election was called was open to the public and public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given, all as required by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Section XI.

This ordinance and election order shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this, the 26th day of January, 2026, at a regular public meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbus.



Hon. Lori An Gobert, Mayor
City of Columbus, Texas

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, City Secretary
City of Columbus, Texas

ORDER OF ELECTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES

An election is ordered to be held on **May 2, 2026** for the purpose of:

Electing Three (3) City Council Members:

Council Place 3

Council Place 4

Council Place 5

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at the **Colorado County Election Center**, located at **1117 Travis Street, Columbus, TX 78934**.

Early voting begins on **April 20, 2026** and ends on **April 28, 2026**. The hours for early voting will be as followed:

April 20- April 28 7:00am to 7:00pm

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

**Colorado County Election Center
c/o Rebecka LaCourse, Election Administrator
1117 Travis Street
Columbus, Texas 78934**

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on **April 22, 2026**.

Issued this the 26th day of January, 2026.



Lori An Gobert, Mayor



Paige Sciba, Council Place 3



Keith Cummings, Council Place 1



Renee Long, Council Place 4



Ronny Daley, Council Place 2



Chuck Rankin, Council Place 5