



PROCLAMATION

NOTICE OF 2026 GENERAL CITY ELECTION

WHEREAS, under and by virtue of the provisions of the City of Okeechobee Charter, Code of Ordinances Chapter 26 titled Elections, and Florida State Laws, it is the duty of the Mayor to **Proclaim** and **Call a General City Election** at least 30-days before the first day qualifying begins. The Proclamation shall specify the Office(s) to be filled; the cause of the vacancy of such Office(s); qualifying period dates, time(s), and location; dates, times, and methods of casting votes by the electors; and the date of the expiration of the terms of such Office(s); and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk shall publish the Proclamation in the local newspaper at least twice, during the 30-days before the first day qualifying begins in which the **General City Election** will be held; and

WHEREAS, qualifications to run for Office(s) in the **General City Election**: Candidates must be a City registered voter; must have resided continuously within the City Limits for at least one (1) year preceding the date of filing to run for Office(s); pay the required fees and file all required documents with the City Clerk during **City Qualifying Week**, beginning at **Noon, August 3, 2026, through** but not later than **Noon, August 7, 2026**.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dowling R. Watford, Jr., as Mayor of the City of Okeechobee, Florida do hereby Proclaim and Declare that a **General City Election** be held on **November 3, 2026**, by the qualified electors of the City who have registered to vote by October 5, 2026, for the purpose of electing **Three (3) City Council Members** whose terms expire on January 4, 2027. The three (3) Candidates with the highest votes will serve as City Council Members for four (4) years, **beginning January 4, 2027**, and **ending January 6, 2031**, following such Election and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Voting shall be held from **7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**, on **Election Day, November 3, 2026**, at the City Voting Precinct; during **Early Voting** to be held from **8:30 AM to 6:00 PM**, daily from **October 24, through 31, 2026**, at the Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections Office; or **Vote-by-Mail** as provided by State Law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as Mayor, and caused the City Corporate Seal to be affixed, this 16th day of June 2026.

By: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr., Mayor
Attest: Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk