

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 066

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.01 TITLED “COUNCIL & MAYOR” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend Article V, Section 5.01, in the form set for in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the ballots for said election shall be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 3. That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article V, Section 5.01 titled “Council & Mayor” be amended by allowing a ward councilperson to serve their entire term if ward boundaries are redrawn in such a way that the councilperson no longer resides in the ward in which they were elected, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

5.01 COUNCIL & MAYOR – Number, Selection, Term

Until enlarged by the procedures established by the general laws of the State of Ohio, the Council shall be composed of nine members, three of whom shall be elected at large and six of whom shall be elected from wards.

During the years 1964 and 1965, the Council shall be composed of the seven members elected to Council at the November 5, 1963, regular municipal election, or any successor appointed to fill a vacancy.

At the regular municipal election to be held in the year 1965, four members shall be elected from wards, one from each ward, for a two-year term expiring December 31, 1967. At the regular municipal election to be held in the year 1965 and every fourth year thereafter, members elected at large shall be elected for four-year terms. At the regular municipal election to be held in the year 1967 and every fourth year thereafter, members shall be elected from wards, one from each ward, for four-year terms.

If the city changes ward lines following a decennial census, a council member who was elected from one ward, but now resides in another, shall complete the remainder of their council term. In the election following the member's four-year term, said member must run in the newly drawn ward in which they reside.

All members of Council shall assume office on the first day of January next following their election.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

SECTION 5. That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on November 4, 2025, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

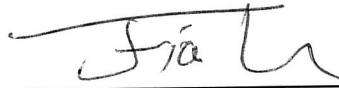
SECTION 6. That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the General Election to be held November 4, 2025.

SECTION 7. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.

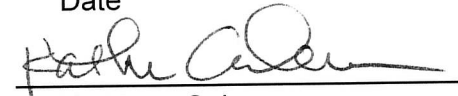
SECTION 8. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: 7/16/25
Date

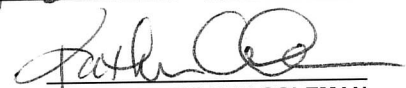

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: 7/16/25
Date

ATTEST: 
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. 2025-066, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON July 16, 2025.

(SEAL)


KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL