

## ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 065

**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 THE “PREAMBLE” 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 the “PREAMBLE”, 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 the “PREAMBLE” be amended by the removal of the phrase “to almighty God” to reflect the separation of church and state and to avoid possible offense to residents, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

### **PREAMBLE**

*We, the people of the City of Kent, Ohio, grateful for the freedoms we enjoy, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Ohio, extending to municipalities the privilege of “Home-rule” in order to secure for ourselves and posterity practical and efficient methods in administering the affairs of the City, to protect the interests and insure the continued welfare of the community and to enjoy all the privileges of local self-government, do adopt this Charter.*

**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  
Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: 7/16/25  
Date

ATTEST: Kathleen Coleman  
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 - 065, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON July 16, 2025.

(SEAL)

Kathleen Coleman  
KATHLEEN COLEMAN  
CLERK OF COUNCIL