



**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GROVELAND, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GROVELAND TO CHANGE TERMS TO BE GENDER NEUTRAL; AUTHORIZING THE RENUMBERING OF ARTICLES AND SECTIONS TO ACCOMMODATE REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE CHARTER; ADDING A PREAMBLE SETTING FORTH THE INTENT OF THE CHARTER AND INCLUDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING SPECIFYING REQUISITE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR SUBMISSION TO ELECTORS; REQUESTING THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE THE BALLOT LANGUAGE ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2018, GENERAL ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CHARTER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, currently the City of Groveland Charter is not gender neutral, does not contain a severability clause or a preamble; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Review Committee drafted and recommended the inclusion of a preamble to the Charter to express the intent of the Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, a severability clause allows any provision of the Charter which is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable to be removed while all remaining provisions and portions of this Charter shall remain in full effect; and

**WHEREAS**, with a number of proposed amendments to the Charter it will be necessary to renumber various articles and sections; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Groveland has advertised this ordinance no less than 10 days prior to the adoption as required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to seek electors approval to amend the City Charter as provided for below.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVELAND, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:**

**SECTION 1. Findings.** In adopting this Ordinance, the City Council of the City of Groveland (the "City Council") hereby makes and expresses the following findings, purposes and intent:

(1) Section 166.031 of Florida Statutes, (2018) provides for the governing body of a municipality to submit to the electors of said municipality a proposed amendment to its charter through referendum. Upon adoption of an amendment by a

majority of the electors voting in a referendum upon such amendment, the amendment shall be incorporated into the charter and the revised charter filed with the Department of State.

(2) It is beneficial to include the intent of the Charter, as well as a severability clause to protect the integrity of all individual sections of the Charter.

(3) It is appropriate and proper for the Charter to be gender neutral.

**Section 2. Amendment of the City of Groveland's Charter.** The Charter is hereby amended as follows:

Adding:

PREAMBLE

We the people of the City of Groveland, Florida, under the constitution and laws of the United States of America and the State of Florida, do hereby adopt this charter to define the powers and structure of our council-manager form of government. By this action, we secure the benefits of local self-government and affirm the values of representative democracy, professional management, strong political leadership, citizen participation, and regional cooperation. We believe in an open, responsive government that abides by the highest ethical standards and operates as a careful steward of the human, fiscal, and natural resources of our city.

Severability

If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of the charter shall not be affected. If the application of the charter or any of its provisions to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the application of the charter and its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

References to "he", "his", "him" or the like shall be removed and replaced with gender neutral language.

Articles and sections will be renumbered to accommodate revisions and additions.

**Section 3. Referendum Called.** The Charter amendment proposed in Section 2. of this Ordinance shall be presented to the City of Groveland electorate at a referendum. The City Council hereby authorizes, directs and requests the supervisor of elections to conduct the referendum, pursuant to applicable Florida law, with the date of the referendum to be November 6, 2018.

**Section 4. Forms of Ballot.** The form of ballot for the Charter amendment proposed in Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be as follows:

**GENDER NEUTRAL; RENUMBERING OF ARTICLES  
AND SECTIONS TO ACCOMMODATE REVISIONS AND  
ADDITIONS; ADDITION OF PREAMBLE;  
SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

Should the language throughout the Charter of Groveland be revised to be gender neutral by removing and replacing words such as he, him and his, renumbering articles and sections to accommodate revisions and additions to the Charter, adding a preamble to set forth the intent of the Charter, and adding a severability clause?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_\_\_ NO

**Section 5. Severability.** If any provision or portion of this Ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full effect.

**Section 6. Repeal.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 7. Inclusion in Charter.** It is the intention of the City of Groveland and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and made a part of the City of Groveland Charter as approved by a majority of electors voting on such measure.

**Section 8. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage as a non-emergency ordinance at two scheduled meetings of the City Council. The Charter amendment provision provided herein shall be effective on November 7, 2018 subject to approval of a majority of electors voting on the measure and certification of the election results.

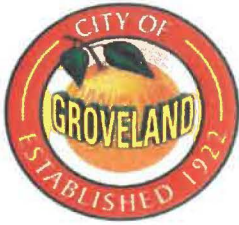
**PASSED AND ORDAINED** in regular session of the City Council of the City of Groveland, Lake County, Florida, this 20th day of August, 2018.



DINA SWEAT, MAYOR  
City of Groveland, Florida

ATTEST:

  
Virginia Wright  
City Clerk



Approved as to Form:

Anita Geraci-Carver

Anita Geraci-Carver  
City Attorney

Passed First Reading AUGUST 6, 2018  
Passed Second Reading AUGUST 20, 2018

Council Member Loucks moved the passage and adoption of the above and foregoing Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Council Member Griffin and upon roll call on the motion the vote was as follows:

	YEA	NAY
John Griffin	✓	
Tim Loucks	✓	
Mike Radzik	✓	
Mike Smith	✓	
Dina Sweatt	✓	