

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION DAY
AS THE DATE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE'S
NONPARTISAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, nonpartisan municipal elections in the Township of West Orange ("Township") are currently held on the second Tuesday during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1, the New Jersey Legislature has amended the applicable statutes to permit municipalities to hold nonpartisan municipal elections on the same day as the general elections in the month of November; and

WHEREAS, it will be more efficient, cost-effective, improve voter turnout, and be in the best interests of the Township and its citizens to hold municipal elections in the month of November at the same time as the General Election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION ONE: In accordance with the Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law, N.J.S.A. 40:45-5, et seq., regular municipal elections in the Township of West Orange shall be conducted on the day of the General Election, specifically the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

SECTION TWO: Pursuant to the Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law, the term of any person in office on the date of adoption of this Ordinance shall be extended until the beginning of the term of the person elected to that office on the day of the General Election.

SECTION THREE: The term of any officer elected in the November General Election shall begin on the first day of January subsequent to the General Election.

SECTION FOUR: Any Ordinances of the Township which conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION FIVE: If any part of this Ordinance shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

SECTION SIX: The Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

**Honorable Susan McCartney
Council President**

**Honorable Robert D. Parisi
Mayor**

**Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk**

Introduced: November 12, 2013

Adopted: December 3, 2013

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

This Ordinance is intended to employ a mechanism authorized by the State Legislature for streamlining the holding of elections in municipalities in the State of New Jersey. Specifically, in January 2010, the New Jersey Legislature amended the Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law, N.J.S.A. 40:45-5, et seq. (the “UNEL”). Among other things, the amendments to the UNEL authorized municipalities which hold nonpartisan municipal elections in May to choose to hold regular municipal elections on the day of the General Election, the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Specifically, N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1(a) explicitly authorizes municipalities to adopt this format for its regular municipalelections. The adoption of this Ordinance formally adopts the mechanism created by the Legislature.

To that end, this legislation is intended to promote economy, efficiency and cost savings in the administration of municipal elections. The Township budgets approximately \$80,000 for each regular municipal election held in May. In the past, the Township has spent close to all of that amount on, among other things, poll-workers, mailing and printing of sample ballots, polling place fees, required advertisements, and delivery of voting machines. These costs often increase from election to election. Consolidating the regular municipal election with the General Election will defray much of these costs.

Furthermore, adoption of this Ordinance is intended to promote and enhance public safety. Because municipal elections are currently held separate and apart from the General Election, the Township’s public schools and other such polling places remain open to **all** visitors and the public at large for one (1) extra day each year. Consolidation of the elections will mean that all polling places, and more specifically schools, and the children, teachers and administrators in them, will be accessible to the public at large for one (1) fewer day per year. Also, in presidential election years, public schools are closed and there will be no dates on which the public at large is authorized to access the schools.

This legislation is also intended to assist in improving voter turnout, which has historically been lower for regular municipal elections than General Elections. Finally, it must be noted that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1(b), adopting this Ordinance means the Township cannot change the timing of the regular municipal elections back to the month of May until: (i) at least ten (10) years have passed since the adoption of this Ordinance; and (ii) a new ordinance providing for elections to occur on the second Tuesday in May has been adopted by the governing body.