

General Election.

Section 1. The Town of Bethlehem, Georgia will conduct a general election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the place of said election being in First United Methodist Church at 709 Christmas Avenue, Bethlehem, Georgia for the positions as indicated in Section 2 of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Positions Open for Election and Terms Thereof.

The general election to be held on the date established by Section 1 of this Ordinance is for the purpose of filling the positions of Mayor, Council Member Post 2 and Council Member Post 4 which will be elected at large for four year terms beginning on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.

Section 3. Qualifying Period.

The qualifying period for the election set by Section 1 of this Ordinance to qualify for the positions described in Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be open on Monday, August 21, 2023 and will continue day-to-day through Thursday, August, 24, 2023. The hours of qualifying each day shall be 12-6 p.m. The place of qualifying shall be the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Bethlehem, Georgia, being the office of the Election Superintendent, and being located at Town Hall, 750 Manger Avenue, Bethlehem, Georgia.

Section 4. Qualifying Fee.

(a) The qualifying fee for each of the Council Member positions open for election as provided by Section 2 of the Ordinance shall be \$22.50 and the Mayor's office fee is \$45. Such fee shall be paid to the Election Superintendent at the time a candidate files the candidate's notice of candidacy.

(b) A pauper's affidavit may be filed in lieu of paying the qualifying fee otherwise required by Section 4(a) of this Ordinance. A candidate filing a pauper's affidavit instead of paying a qualifying fee shall under oath affirm the candidate's poverty and the candidate's resulting inability to pay the qualifying fee otherwise required. The form of the affidavit shall be as prescribed by the Georgia Secretary of State and shall include a financial statement which lists the total income, assets, liabilities and other relevant financial information of the candidate. The affidavit shall contain an oath that such candidate has neither the assets nor the income to pay the qualifying fee otherwise required. The following warning shall be printed on the affidavit form as prepared by the Georgia Secretary of State, to wit: "WARNING: Any person knowingly making any false statement on this affidavit commits the offense of false swearing and shall be guilty of a felony." The Election Superintendent shall place on the ballot the name of any candidate who subscribes and swears to an oath that such candidate has neither the assets nor the income to pay the qualifying fee otherwise required.

Section 5. Qualifying Affidavit and Financial Disclosure Statement.

(a) Each candidate qualifying for the positions described in Section 2 of this Ordinance shall accompany the candidate's notice with an affidavit stating:

- (1) The candidate's residence, with street and number, if any, and the candidate's post office address;
- (2) The candidate's profession, business or occupation, if any;
- (3) The name of post or office sought for election and precinct, if applicable;
- (4) That the candidate is an elector of the municipality of the candidate's residence and is eligible to vote in the election in which the candidate is running for office;
- (5) The name of the position that the candidate is seeking;
- (6) That the candidate is eligible to hold such position;
- (7) That the candidate has never been convicted and sentenced in any court of competent jurisdiction for fraudulent violation of primary or election laws, malfeasance in office or a felony involving moral turpitude under the laws of this state or any other state or of the United States, of that the candidate's civil rights have been restored and that at least ten years have elapsed from the date of the completion of the sentence without a subsequent conviction of another felony involving moral turpitude; and
- (8) That the candidate will not knowingly violate any provisions of the "Georgia Municipal Election Code" or any rules and regulations adopted under the "Georgia Municipal Election Code."

(b) Each person qualifying as a candidate will file a financial disclosure statement prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia in the form as prescribed therein, no later than the fifteenth (15th) day following the last day of qualifying with the Election Superintendent of the Town of Bethlehem, Georgia.

Section 6. Write-In Candidates.

(a) In this general election, no person elected on a write-in vote shall be eligible to hold office unless notice of the person's intention of candidacy was given twenty (20) or more days prior to the election by the person to be a write-in candidate or by some other person or group of persons qualified to vote in the election, to the Mayor or the Election Superintendent and by publication in the official newspaper of the Town of Bethlehem, Georgia, said publication currently being "The Barrow Journal."

(b) In addition to the requirements contained in Section 6(a) of this Ordinance, the

person or persons giving notice of intention of candidacy for a write-in candidate shall also file with the Election Superintendent, a copy of the notice as published with an affidavit stating that the notice has been published, with the name of the newspaper and the date of publication, not later than the fifth (5th) day after the deadline for filing and publishing of such notice. The affidavit may be made by the person giving notice or intention of candidacy or by the publisher of the newspaper in which the notice was published or by an employee of the newspaper designated by the publisher.

Section 7. Election Appointments.

(a) The following persons are hereby appointed to act as election officials for the 2023 General Election:

Election Superintendent: Monica Franklin

Chief Poll/Precinct Manager: To be appointed by Election Superintendent

Assistant Poll/Precinct Manager(s): To be appointed by Election Superintendent

(b) The office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Bethlehem, Georgia is hereby declared to be the office of the Election Superintendent for the purpose of candidates qualifying for the offices open for election as provided by Section 2 of this Ordinance, and also as an office of the Absentee Ballot Clerk.

Section 8. Last Day for Voter Registration.

The last day that an elector/voter may register to vote in the 2023 General Election shall be Oct. 2, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. at the Barrow County Board of Elections and Registration located at 233 East Broad Street, Winder, Georgia, unless said date is a Georgia legal holiday, and then the last day for voter/elector registration shall be the next day by 5:00 p.m.