

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-0-

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE II ENTITLED "PRESIDING MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE" OF THE LAREDO CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 20-17 TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TERM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo is a Home Rule City acting under its Charter adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a clear and uniform commencement date for the term of a duly elected Municipal Judge in order to ensure consistency, administrative efficiency, and alignment with the City's election and canvassing procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that providing that the term of a duly elected Municipal Judge shall begin no earlier than January 1 following the canvassing of the general election promotes an orderly transition of judicial office and preserves the continuity of municipal court operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

Section 1. Section 20-17 (Terms of Office) of Chapter 20, Article II of the Laredo Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20-17. – Terms of Office.

~~[The presiding]~~ *An elected* municipal court judge shall serve for a term of four (4) years. ~~[The]~~ A municipal court judge may not serve more than two (2) terms, except that he or she may serve the remainder of an unexpired term to which the judge was elected or appointed and two (2) additional terms. *The term for a municipal court judge shall begin no earlier than January 1 after canvassing of the general election.*

Section 2. This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance are severable. If any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance, since the City Council would have enacted the same without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 4. The City Secretary of the City of Laredo is hereby directed to publish the proposed Ordinance as required by Section 2.09 of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage hereof.

**DULY PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS
THE _____ DAY of _____, 2026.**

**DR. VICTOR D. TREVIÑO
MAYOR**

ATTESTED:

**MARIO MALDONADO, JR.
CITY SECRETARY**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**DOANH "ZONE" T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY**