

CITY OF RIO VISTA, TEXAS
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1009

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIO VISTA, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING AN ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING TO SERVE AS MAYOR OR ON THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN TERMINATED FROM EMPLOYMENT WITH THE CITY OF RIO VISTA ARE INELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR OR HOLD ELECTED OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Rio Vista, Texas ("City") is a Type A General Law Municipality operating under the laws of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Election Code and Texas Local Government Code set forth the minimum legal qualifications for individuals seeking the office of Mayor or City Council Member in a general law municipality; and

WHEREAS, Section 51.072 of the Texas Local Government Code authorizes general law municipalities to adopt ordinances as necessary for the good governance, peace, and order of the municipality, so long as they are not inconsistent with state law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Rio Vista finds that holding public office is a position of public trust, and that an additional requirement is appropriate to ensure accountability, integrity, and confidence in the leadership of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds and determines that this ordinance is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Rio Vista, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO VISTA, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE.

In addition to all eligibility requirements established by the Texas Constitution, the Texas Election Code, and the Texas Local Government Code for holding the office of Mayor or City Council Member, no person shall be eligible to file for, be elected to, or hold the office of Mayor or City

Council of the City of Rio Vista if that individual has previously been terminated for cause from any position of employment with the City of Rio Vista.

For purposes of this section:

- **“Termination for cause”** means dismissal or discharge related to misconduct, policy violations, dishonesty, insubordination, misuse of city property, neglect of duties, criminal activity, or other reasons documented as cause in the individual’s employment record.
- **Resignations in lieu of termination** or separation agreements stating that the employee would otherwise have been terminated shall be treated as a termination for cause.

SECTION 2. APPLICATION AND VERIFICATION.

City staff, including but not limited to the City Secretary, are authorized to verify candidate eligibility under this ordinance. A determination of ineligibility shall be issued in writing and maintained with election records consistent with state law.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and in accordance with Texas law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of December, 2025, by the City Council of the City of Rio Vista, Texas.

CITY OF RIO VISTA, TEXAS

By: 
Mayor

ATTEST:

By: 
City Secretary
