

1st Reading 11/25/2025
2nd Reading 11/25/2025

BILL NO. 25-62

ORDINANCE NO. 5610

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING FOUR PROPOSITIONS AND CALLING FOR AN ELECTION WITHIN THE CITY OF CRESTWOOD, MISSOURI, ON APRIL 7, 2026, TO AMEND MULTIPLE SECTIONS OF THE CITY CHARTER AND ADD ONE NEW SECTION AS PROPOSED BY THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE AND SET FORTH IN THE EXHIBITS ATTACHED HERETO

WHEREAS, according to Section 13.8 of the Charter of the City of Crestwood, Missouri (the “City”), the Board of Aldermen shall, by ordinance, submit amendments proposed by the Charter Review Committee to the voters at the next general municipal election following the reporting of said proposed amendments to the Board; and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2025, the Charter Review Committee reported to the Board of Aldermen its proposed Charter amendments; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments include Proposal 1, Clarifications, an amendment to various sections of the City Charter to correct misspellings, grammar errors or update terms for consistency; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments include Proposal 2, Efficiencies, which proposes amendments to various sections of the City Charter to enable City government to work more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments include Proposal 3, Election Alignment, to align with Missouri Statutes which designate the April election as the General Municipal Election Day

intended for local municipal election ballot items and avoid costs that could be incurred for special elections; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments include Proposal 4, Four-Year Term, which proposes amendments to the City Charter and one new Section to change and implement the term for all elected officials (Mayor and Aldermen) to a four-year term beginning with the 2028 municipal election to allow elected officials to focus on governing, allow them to become more effective for another year of service, and reduce election costs; and

WHEREAS, the next general municipal election in the City of Crestwood is on April 7, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CRESTWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The following proposition shall be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters of Crestwood, Missouri, at the election to be held on April 7, 2026:

PROPOSITION 1

Shall Sections 3.2, 3.4, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1, 4.3, 4.7, 7.2, 8.1, 8.3, 8.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 10.5, 10.6, 11.1, 11.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.8 and 15.4 of the City's Charter be amended to correct misspellings, grammar errors or update terms for consistency, as proposed by the Charter Review Committee and more fully set forth in Exhibit 1 to Ordinance 5610.

☐ YES

☐ NO

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "YES." If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "NO."

SECTION 2: The following proposition shall be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters of Crestwood, Missouri, at the election to be held on April 7, 2026:

PROPOSITION 2

Shall Sections 3.9, 3.10, 3.12, 4.7, 5.2, 7.2 and 13.5 of the City’s Charter be amended to enable City government to work more efficiently, including allowing the Board of Aldermen to establish by ordinance how mayoral absences are covered, set meeting start times, determine whether the City uses a one-year or two-year budget cycle, and allow limited extensions of auditing services if needed, as proposed by the Charter Review Committee and more fully set forth in Exhibit 2 to Ordinance 5610.

☐ YES

☐ NO

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: If you are in favor of the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “YES.” If you are opposed to the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “NO.”

SECTION 3: The following proposition shall be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters of Crestwood, Missouri, at the election to be held on April 7, 2026:

PROPOSITION 3

Shall Sections 4.7, 8.3, 9.1, 9.7, 9.8, 10.3, 10.6 and 13.7 of the City’s Charter be amended to align with Missouri Statutes which designate the April election as the General Municipal Election Day intended for local municipal election ballot items and avoid costs that could be incurred for special elections, as proposed by the Charter Review Committee and more fully set forth in Exhibit 3 to Ordinance 5610.

☐ YES

☐ NO

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: If you are in favor of the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “YES.” If you are opposed to the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “NO.”

SECTION 4: The following proposition shall be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters of Crestwood, Missouri, at the election to be held on April 7, 2026:

PROPOSITION 4

Shall Sections 3.4, 4.3, 8.3 of the City’s Charter be amended, and a new Section 15.5 of the City Charter be enacted, to change and implement the term for all elected officials (Mayor and Aldermen) to a four-year term beginning with the 2028 municipal election, as proposed by the Charter Review Committee and more fully set forth in Exhibit 4 to Ordinance 5610.

☐ YES

☐ NO

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "YES." If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "NO."

SECTION 5: The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Board of Elections of St. Louis County, Missouri, of the adoption of this Ordinance by certifying the aforementioned ballot propositions no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 27, 2026, and to take such other action as may be required so that this election may be lawfully conducted, including making changes to ballot language required by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 6: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Board of Aldermen and its approval by the Mayor.

PASSED AND SIGNED this 25th day of November, 2025.

ATTEST:

City Clerk



Mayor



APPROVED this 25th day of November, 2025.

Mayor



EXHIBIT 1

Ballot Proposition 1 – Clarifications

It is proposed that the following sections be amended to correct misspellings, grammar errors or update terms for consistency. There are no changes in this item that will substantively change any City processes or procedures and they will not result in any additional costs for the City.

Section 3.2 COMPOSITION AND REPRESENTATION.

The Board of Aldermen shall consist of two (2) Aldermen from each ward. Aldermen shall be nominated and elected by the qualified voters of their respective wards as provided in ~~Article VIII~~ **Sections 8.1 - 8.4 of this Charter**. References in this Charter to the Board of Aldermen’s “authorized members” or “authorized membership” means the Board of Aldermen’s entire membership **of eight (8)** as established by the Charter, regardless of vacancies.

Section 3.4 ELECTION AND TERMS.

An alderman shall be limited to **hold office for** three (3) successive, ~~full three (3)-year~~ terms, **in the same ward, regardless of seat**, not including time served to complete an unexpired term. **Any alderman who resigns, is recalled, is removed, or otherwise forfeits their office during their term will be deemed to have completed said term.**

Section 3.9 PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The President of the Board of Aldermen shall preside at meetings of the Board of Aldermen in the absence of the Mayor and shall serve as Acting Mayor in accordance with ~~Article~~ **Section 4.7** (c) of this Charter.

Section 3.10 LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

(b) QUORUM - If **member(s) of the Board of Aldermen fail to attend any meeting or leave any meeting early resulting in the lack of** a quorum, ~~fails to attend any meeting, it the meeting~~ shall stand adjourned until the next regular or special meeting.

Section 4.1 MAYOR.

The Mayor shall be recognized as the head of the city for all legal and ceremonial purposes and by the Governor of Missouri for all purposes of **emergency management and** military law.

Section 4.3 ELECTION AND TERM.

The Mayor shall be limited to **hold office for** three (3) successive, ~~full three (3)-year~~ terms, not including time served to complete an unexpired term. **A Mayor that resigns, is recalled, is removed, or otherwise forfeits their office during their term will be deemed to have completed said term.**

Section 4.7 VACANCIES; CENSURE/FORFEITURE OF OFFICE; FILLING OF VACANCIES.

(c) FILLING OF VACANCY - If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen shall **become Acting Mayor and** have all the powers and perform all the duties of the office **as provided herein** until a special municipal election is held for the purpose of electing a Mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

As Acting Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen shall continue to have a vote in the Board, but shall not have the veto power **of the Mayor or the Mayor's ability to cast a tie-breaking vote.**

Section 7.2 BUDGET.

(a) In no event shall the total proposed expenditures for any fund defined by city ordinances exceed the estimated available revenues **plus the encumbered or undesignated balance from any previous fiscal year.**

Section 8.1 CITY ELECTIONS.

(c) CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.

All city elections shall be ~~non-partisan~~ **nonpartisan** and governed by the provisions of this Charter and applicable state law.

Section 8.3 DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS.

(b) RETURNS. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office, as certified by the St. Louis County Board of Elections ~~Commissioners~~, shall be declared elected. Installation into office shall be no more than three weeks following receipt of certification. **The incumbent shall remain in office until a successor has been elected and duly installed.**

(c) GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS TIE VOTE. ~~The incumbent shall remain in office until a successor has been elected and duly installed.~~

Section 8.4 WARDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND CHANGES. A Redistricting Committee, appointed in accordance with Section 8.4 (b) **of this Charter** shall recommend any changes in ward boundaries.

Section 9.5 PROCEDURE AFTER FILING.

(a) CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK: AMENDMENT. Such supplementary petition shall comply with the requirements of ~~subsections (b) and (c) of~~ Sections 9.3 **(b) and (c)** of this Charter.

Section 9.6 REFERENDUM PETITIONS; SUSPENSION OF EFFECT OF ORDINANCE.

(4) Election results sustaining the ordinance have been certified by the St. Louis County Board of Elections ~~Commissioners~~.

Section 9.7 ACTION ON PETITIONS.

(b) SUBMISSION TO VOTERS. Copies of the proposed or referred ordinance shall be made available at the polls **through the St. Louis County Board of Elections and in the City Clerks' office at least thirty (30) days in advance of the election.**

(c) WITHDRAWAL OF PETITIONS. An initiative or referendum petition may be withdrawn at any time prior to the ballot certification date established by the St. Louis County ~~Election Board~~ **Board of Elections** by filing with the City Clerk a notice of withdrawal signed by at least four (4) members of the petitioners' committee.

Section 9.8. RESULTS OF ELECTION.

(a) INITIATIVE. If a majority of those voting on a proposed initiative ordinance vote in its favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results by the St. Louis County Board of Elections ~~Commissioners~~ and shall be treated in all respects in the same manner as an ordinance adopted by the Board of Aldermen.

(b) REFERENDUM. If a majority of those voting on a referred ordinance vote to repeal the ordinance, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results by the St. Louis County Board of Elections ~~Commissioners~~.

Section 10.5 PROCEDURE AFTER FILING.

(a) CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK: AMENDMENT.

Such supplementary petition shall comply with the requirements of ~~subsections (b) and (c)~~ of Sections 10.3 **(b) and (c)** of this Charter.

Section 10.6 ACTION ON PETITION.

(b) WITHDRAWAL OF PETITIONS. A recall petition may be withdrawn at any time prior to the ballot certification date established by the St. Louis County ~~Election Board~~ **Board of Elections** by filing with the City Clerk a notice of withdrawal signed by at least four (4) members of the petitioners' committee.

Section 11.1 GRANTING OF FRANCHISES.

To the extent permitted by law, all All public utility franchises and all renewals, extensions and amendments thereof shall be granted only by ordinance.

Section 11.2 RIGHT OF REGULATION.

To the extent permitted by law, every Every public utility franchise, whether it be so provided in the ordinance or not, shall be subject to the right of the Board of Aldermen to:

Section 13.1 PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTEREST.

Any city officer or employee who willfully conceals such a substantial financial interest or willfully violates the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance in office or position, and shall forfeit ~~his or her~~ **said** office or position.

Section 13.2 POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

No city employee shall solicit any contribution for the campaign fund of any candidate for Crestwood city office or take part in the political campaign of any candidate for Crestwood city office, **while on duty or acting in an official capacity, except as otherwise permitted by state or federal law.**

Section 13.3 PROHIBITIONS.

No person shall be appointed to, or removed from, or in any way favored or discriminated against with respect to any city position, ~~because of race, sex, age, disability, national origin, or political or religious opinions or affiliations,~~ in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

Section 13.8 CHARTER REVIEW ~~COMMITTEE~~ **COMMISSION.**

From time to time, but at least every ten (10) years, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall provide for a Charter Review ~~Committee~~ **Commission** to consider whether any amendments to this Charter are appropriate. The ten (10) year period shall begin from the date of the previous Charter Review ~~Committee's~~ **Commission's** first meeting. The members of the Charter Review ~~Committee~~ **Commission** shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Board of Aldermen.

The Charter Review ~~Committee~~ **Commission** shall consist of at least nine (9) persons, not more than one of whom shall be an elected official of the city with at least two members from each ward. The Charter Review ~~Committee~~ **Commission** shall, within twelve (12) months of its first meeting, report to the Board of Aldermen as many amendments to the Charter as it shall deem advisable.

Section 15.4 FIRST GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

One **(1)** Alderman shall be elected from each ward to the seat expiring in 1996 for a term of two years. This two **(2)** year term shall not be subject to the limitations imposed by Section 3.4 of this Charter.

Ballot Proposition 2 – Efficiencies

It is proposed that the following sections be amended to enable City government to work more efficiently. Among these changes, the Board of Aldermen could establish by ordinance how mayoral absences are covered, set meeting start times, determine whether the City uses a one-year or two-year budget cycle, and also allow limited extensions of auditing services if needed.

Section 3.9 PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

(Add at the end)

In the event of a temporary absence of the Mayor, the President of the Board of Alderman shall perform the duties of the Mayor, until the Mayor shall return, according to the procedure provided by Ordinance.

Section 3.10 LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

(a) MEETINGS - The Board of Aldermen shall hold a regular meeting at least once each month at such times and places as the Board may prescribe by Ordinance. Regular meetings shall start no earlier than 7:00 P.M. The Mayor may, or at the request of three (3) aldermen shall, call a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen for a time not earlier than 24 hours after notice is given to all members of the Board of Aldermen then in the city.

All meetings of the Board of Aldermen shall be public meetings, at which the Board of Aldermen shall provide for public comments, unless public access has been restricted pursuant to law. In no event shall any meeting of the Board of Aldermen be held outside the city limits.

(f) PROCEDURE - If any proposed ordinance is included on a consent agenda and is not removed from the consent agenda for further consideration, the title of the proposed ordinance only needs to be read once during said meeting. A copy of each proposed ordinance shall be provided for each member of the Board of Aldermen at the time of its introduction it is publicly posted, and at least three (3) copies shall be provided for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk until such time as the proposed ordinance is either adopted or rejected.

Section 3.12 INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

No certified public accountant or firm shall conduct the audit for more than five (5) consecutive years, unless approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the Board of Aldermen.

Section 4.7 VACANCIES; CENSURE/FORFEITURE OF OFFICE; FILLING OF VACANCIES.

(a) VACANCY/TEMPORARY ABSENCE - The office of Mayor shall become vacant upon the Mayor's death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law, or forfeiture.

A temporary absence occurs when the Mayor is unable to perform the duties of the office, for a limited time, but the office is not vacant. Any vacancy or temporary absence shall be governed by Section 3.9 of this Charter.

Section 5.2 POWERS AND DUTIES.

(f) BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAM - The City Administrator shall submit annually a recommended budget and a projected five (5) year capital improvement, replacement, and personnel needs program to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, **unless otherwise directed by the Board of Aldermen by Ordinance.**

Section 7.2 BUDGET.

(a) SUBMISSION; CONTENTS - At least forty-five (45) days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the City Administrator shall submit to the Board of Aldermen a proposed final budget and accompanying written narrative, **unless otherwise directed by the Board of Aldermen by Ordinance.**

(b) CAPITAL PROGRAM

The program shall be reviewed and extended each year, **unless otherwise directed by the Board of Aldermen by Ordinance.**

Section 13.5 OFFICIAL BONDS.

(Add at the end)

If such a bond is required, and the City has an insurance policy that covers the same risks, the Board of Aldermen may waive the bond requirement.

Ballot Proposition 3- Election Alignment

It is proposed that the following sections be amended to align with Missouri Statutes which designate the April election as the General Municipal Election Day intended for local municipal election ballot items and avoid costs that could be incurred for special elections.

Section 4.7 VACANCIES; CENSURE/FORFEITURE OF OFFICE; FILLING OF VACANCIES.

(c) **FILLING OF VACANCY** - If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the office until **a Mayor is elected at the next general municipal election.** ~~a special municipal election is held for the purpose of electing a Mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term. Said election shall be called for the next legally available election day, except that when the vacancy occurs within twelve (12) months immediately preceding the expiration of the Mayor's term, the President of the Board of Aldermen shall continue to act as Mayor until a Mayor is elected at the general municipal election.~~

Section 8.3 DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS.

(c) **GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS TIE VOTE.** If at any general or special election there shall be two (2) or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes as certified by the St. Louis County Board of Elections ~~Commissioners~~, and if that number of votes would otherwise qualify each such tied candidate for election to office, then ~~the Board of Aldermen shall call a special election at the next available election date at which said candidates shall be the only candidates~~ **those tied votes will be handled in accordance with Missouri law.**

Section 9.1 GENERAL AUTHORITY.

(a) **INITIATIVE.** If the Board of Aldermen fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without any change in substance, the qualified voters may adopt or reject it at ~~a city~~ **the next general municipal** election.

(b) **REFERENDUM.** If the Board of Aldermen fails to repeal an ordinance so reconsidered, the qualified voters may approve or reject it at ~~a city~~ **the next general municipal** election.

Section 9.7 ACTIONS ON PETITIONS.

(b) **SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS.** The vote by the qualified voters of the city on a proposed or referred ordinances shall be held on the next ~~legally available~~ **general municipal** election date following the expiration of the date for final action by the Board of Alderman.

Section 9.8. RESULTS OF ELECTION.

(a) **INITIATIVE.** If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict. In the event

of a tie, ~~there shall be a run-off election to be held on the next legally available election date~~ **the Board of Aldermen will vote to determine which ordinance prevails.**

Section 10.3 PETITION.

(a) NUMBER OF SIGNATURES. A petition for recall of the Mayor shall be signed by that number of qualified voters of the city equal to at least twenty percent (20%) of the total number of voters registered to vote at the last general ~~city~~ **municipal** election. A petition for recall of a member of the Board of Aldermen shall be signed by that number of qualified voters eligible to vote at the recall election equal to at least twenty percent (20%) of the total number of voters registered to vote at the last general ~~city~~ **municipal** election in that member's ward.

Section 10.6 ACTION ON PETITION.

(a) SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS. When a recall petition has been finally determined as sufficient, the Board of Aldermen shall at its next regular meeting after receipt of such final determination, **announce that the recall petition will be submitted to the voters at the next general municipal election** ~~fix a date for holding the election at the next legally available election date.~~

Section 13.7 CHARTER AMENDMENT.

The Board of Aldermen shall at once provide by ordinance that any amendment so proposed shall be submitted to the voters at the next **general municipal** election held in the city not less than sixty (60) days after its passage, or at a special election held as provided for a Charter.

Ballot Proposition 4 – Four-Year Term

It is proposed that the following sections be amended and a new section be enacted, to change and implement the term for all elected officials (Mayor and Aldermen) to a four-year term beginning with the 2028 municipal election to allow elected officials to focus on governing, allow them to become more effective for another year of service, and reduce election costs.

Section 3.4 ELECTION AND TERMS.

Beginning in 2028, Aldermen shall be elected to ~~a~~ terms of ~~three~~ **four** (34) years in duration. The terms of the two (2) Aldermen representing each ward shall be staggered.

An alderman shall be limited to **hold office for** three (3) successive, ~~full three (3) year~~ terms, **in the same ward, regardless of seat**, not including time served to complete an unexpired term. **Any alderman who resigns, is recalled, is removed, or otherwise forfeits their office during their term will be deemed to have completed said term. Such person cannot serve again as alderman in that ward for three (3) years. Any person that has reached the term limit provided by this Charter shall not be appointed or elected to serve again as alderman until at least one (1) one general municipal election has passed since their last term.**

Section 4.3 ELECTION AND TERM.

The Mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the city at large at the general municipal election. The Mayor shall hold office for a term of ~~three~~ **four** (34) years.

The Mayor shall be limited to **hold office for** three (3) successive, ~~full three (3) year~~ terms, not including time served to complete an unexpired term. **A Mayor that resigns, is recalled, is removed, or otherwise forfeits their office during their term will be deemed to have completed said term. Such person cannot serve again as Mayor for three (3) years. Any person that has reached the term limit provided by the Charter shall not be elected to serve again as Mayor until at least one (1) general municipal election has passed since their last term.**

Section 8.3 DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS.

(a) NUMBER OF VOTES. If two aldermen are to be elected from any ward at a regular election where only one alderman normally would be elected, there shall be placed on the ballot two separate propositions, one office for the unexpired term, and one office for the ~~full three-year~~ **regularly scheduled** term.

Section 15.5 First General Municipal Election after 2026

(a) PURPOSE. The purpose of the following provisions is to promote the orderly transition from the present government of the City of Crestwood, Missouri to the new term lengths defined in Sections 3.4 and 4.3 of this Charter. The provisions of this Section 15.5 shall constitute a part of this Charter only to the extent and for the time required to accomplish that aim.

(b) TRANSITION SCHEDULE.

2026 Municipal Election: Mayor elected for a three (3) year term

2027 Municipal Election: 1 Alderman from each Ward whose term is expiring is elected for a three (3) year term expiring 2030

2028 Municipal Election: 1 Alderman from each Ward whose term is expiring is elected for a four (4) year term, expiring 2032

2029 Municipal Election: Mayor elected for a four (4) year term, expiring 2033

2030 Municipal Election: 1 Alderman from each Ward whose time is expiring is elected for a four (4) year term, expiring 2034

2031 Municipal Election: no regularly scheduled elected official on ballot

Any elected official that previously reached the three (3) consecutive term limit found in Sections 3.4 and 4.3 of this Charter shall be eligible for election in 2027.