ORDINANCE NO. 01-2026-20

AN ORDINNCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF TH CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS ORDERING THE MAY 2, 2026, GENERAL ELECTION TO ELECT THE MAYOR AND THREE ALDERPERSONS; PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING; PROVIDING FOR THE POLLING PLACE; PROVIDING FOR ELECTIO

N JUDGES AND AN EARLY VOTING CLERK; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF THE ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR THE METHOD OF VOTING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Texas and the City of Chico, provide that on May 02, 2026, there shall be elected three members of council, a Mayor and three (3) aldermen; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Texas further provide that Section 3.01 of the Election Code of the State of Texas is applicable to said elections, and to comply with said Code, an Order should be passed ordering said election and establishing the procedure to be followed in said election, and designating the voting place for said election; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Texas provide that the Election Code of the State of Texas is applicable to said election, and to comply with said Code, an order should be passed ordering said election.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS, THAT:

Section 1. Election Ordered. A general election is called and ordered to be held in the City of Chico (the "City") on Saturday, May 2, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of electing a Mayor , to serve a one year term; and three (3) Alderpersons to the City Council, each to serve a two-year term. The ordinance shall serve as an order of election as required by the Texas Election Code.

Section 2. Ballots. Ballots shall be held in compliance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, and the votes shall be upon official ballots prepared in such a manner as will permit the voters to vote for a Mayor and three (3) Alderpersons and shall be in English and Spanish. The ballots used in the election shall have printed thereon the names of all candidates for the office of Mayor and Alderpersons who filed applications to have their names printed on the ballot by 5:30 p.m. on February 13, 2026, and blank spaces for write-in votes. All applications must be on a form as prescribed by Section 141.031 of the Election Code of the State of Texas.

Section 3. Applications to Have Name on Ballot. Any person interested in applying to be a candidate may obtain an application to have their names printed on the ballot at the office of the City of Chico, **400 S. Hovey, Chico, Texas, 76431.**

during the regular business hours of **8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM** on or before February 13, 2026. The deadline for write-in candidates to file a declaration of write-in candidacy is 5:30 p.m. on February 17, 2026.

Section 4. Printed Materials. The Official Ballots, together with such other election materials as are required by the Texas Election Code, as amended, shall be printed in both English and Spanish and shall contain such provisions, markings, and language as may be required by law.

Section 5. Election Precinct and Polling Place. There shall be one (1) election precinct for the elections called and ordered by the ordinances. The election precinct shall contain and include all that geographic area within the City. The following location is hereby designated as the polling place for the election precinct: **400 S. Hovey, Chico, Texas 76431.**

The polling place is hereby declared to be a public place for the purpose of the election and shall remain open on the day of the election from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Section 6. Contract for Conduct of the Election. The City Secretary may contract with a qualified entity for conducting of the election. The Mayor or City Secretary is hereby authorized to execute any requisite documents with a qualified entity for conducting of the election to effectuate the intent of this ordinance.

Section 7. Notice of Election. The City Secretary is hereby directed to cause notice of the elections to be posted, in English and Spanish, not later than is required by the Texas Election Code and/or the Texas Tax Code, as the case may be.

Section 8. General. Said elections shall be held in accordance with the Texas Election Code and only qualified voters of the City shall be eligible to vote at said election. The City Secretary is authorized and instructed to provide and furnish all necessary election supplies to conduct said election. Returns of said election shall be made known as soon as possible after the closing of the polls.

Section 9. Early Voting. The following is hereby appointed early voting officer of said general election:

Darla Read, City Secretary Presiding Judge/Clerk

The presiding judge may appoint, as he/she deems necessary, clerks to assist in the conduct of the early election. Early voting in the election by personal appearance shall begin on April 20, 2026, and shall continue through April 28, 2026.

The places and times at which early voting shall be are as follows:

EARLY VOTING LOCATION: City Hall / Community Center 400 S. Hovey St. Chico, Texas 76431
HOURS
MONDAY thru FRIDAY 7:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

The City Secretary may change the places and times of the early voting location without further City Council action or approval after she determines that a change in the place and times is necessary.

The early voting clerk's mailing address at which ballot application and ballots to be voted by mail may be sent is Chico City Hall, Early Voting Clerk, P.O. Box 37, Chico, Texas 76431.

The Presiding Judge appointed by the City Council shall serve as the presiding judge of the Early Ballot Board, the members of which shall be the precinct election officers serving the election precinct as provided in Section 87.004 of the Texas Election Code.

Section 10. Voting. All qualified resident electors of the City of Chico shall be entitled to vote in the election. The election shall be held and conducted and returns made to this City Council in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended.

Section 11. Unopposed Candidates. The City Secretary is hereby directed to determine if the candidates are unopposed for election because:

(1) The same number of candidates are placed on the ballot for the Mayor and/or the number of Alderperson positions available, and
(2) No candidates name is to be placed on a list of write-in candidates for the office of Mayor and/or Alderperson.

If such circumstances exist, the City Secretary shall certify in writing which, if any, candidates are unopposed for election to the office of the Mayor and Alderperson. The certification shall be delivered to the City Council as soon as possible after the filing deadlines for placement on the ballot and list of write-in candidates.

Section 12. Canvass. A canvass shall be held in accordance with, Texas Election Code, Chapter 67, Canvassing Election.

Section 13. Said Election shall be held under the provisions of Ordinances of the City of Chico, the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and amendments thereof, insofar as same may be applicable.

Section 14. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective upon its passage by a majority vote of the City Council.

Section 15. **Severability.** It is hereby declared that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by the valid judgement or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or sections of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction because the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

Section 16. All ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed insofar as they conflict herewith.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 20th **day of** January **, 2026.**

CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Secretary