

	STAFF REPORT
Date:	July 19, 2022
Prepared By:	Linda Drummond
Subject:	Discussion of Changes to Terms of Office

On April 19, 2022, Alderman Hartman requested that staff begin to research the steps needed to change the elected official's office terms from two years to four years.

Per Missouri State Statutes Section 79.050 (RSMo) the Board of Aldermen may approve an Ordinance to pose the question of term of Mayor and/or Alderman to the voters at a municipal election. The question must pass by a majority vote.

The position of Mayor can be extended to the term of three or four years with majority voter approval.

The position of Alderman may also be extended to a term of four years with majority voter approval.

The extended term would go into effect upon passage of an Ordinance acknowledging the election results. Anyone serving at the time or elected during that same election would serve out their current two-year term. Following adoption of the Ordinance those elected shall serve a four-year term.

Should the board wish to take this question to voters, ballot language would have to be certified by Ordinance in advance. (Sample Ordinance language is attached).

Timing for Upcoming Elections:

- In order to place this on the November 8, 2022, General Election ballot, the language would have to be certified by August 30, 2022.
- In order to place this on the April 4, 2023 General Municipal Election ballot, the language would have to be certified by January 24, 2023.

BILL NO.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SMITHVILLE, MISSOURI INCREASING THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR SAID MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR YEARS AND CALLING FOR THE QUESTION REGARDING THE LENGTH OF THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN TO BE PLACED ON THE APRIL 4, 2023 ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS, Section 79.050.3 R.S.Mo. provides that the Board of Aldermen may provide by ordinance, after approval by a majority of the voters of the city voting at an election at which the issue is submitted, for a four-year term for the Mayor and for members of the Board of Aldermen; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it advisable and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Smithville to provide a four-year term of office for the Mayor and the members of the Board of Aldermen.

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

SECTION ONE: The term of office for the Mayor and Aldermen is hereby increased from two (2) years to four (4) years.

SECTION TWO: The questions of the length of the term of office for the Mayor and the members of the Board of Aldermen shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the City of Smithville, Missouri, for their approval, as required by § 79.050.3 R.S.Mo., at the election hereby called and to be held in the City of Smithville on April 4, 2023. The ballot of submission shall contain substantially the following language:

Shall the Board of Aldermen of the City of Smithville, Missouri provide by ordinance for a four-year term for Mayor as provided for by the Statutes of the State of Missouri?

YES
 NO

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."

Shall the Board of Aldermen of the City of Smithville, Missouri provide by ordinance for a four-year term for members of the Board of Aldermen as provided for by the Statutes of the State of Missouri?

- YES
 NO

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 THREE: This ordinance shall only become effective after receiving a majority vote of the citizens of the City of Smithville, Missouri.

SECTION FOUR: The effective date of this ordinance shall be immediately upon certification by the Clay County Board of Elections that a majority of the voters voting in the April 4, 2023 election approved the issue submitted.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMITHVILLE, MISSOURI, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022.

Damien Boley, Mayor

Attest:

Linda Drummond, City Clerk