

Affidavit of Posting

● City of Tucson ●

State of Arizona
County of Pima

} ss

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed City Clerk for the City of Tucson, Arizona, do hereby affirm the following Ordinance(s)/Resolution(s) was (were) posted in the Ordinances/Resolutions Binder in the lobby of the City Hall, 255 W. Alameda.

Ordinance Nos. 12239 and 12240

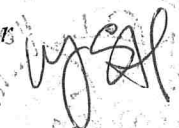
Date adopted by Mayor and Council: April 7, 2026

Date Posted: April 16, 2026

To remain posted until: May 17, 2026

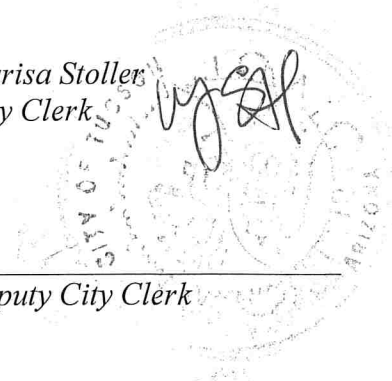
In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Tucson, Arizona, this 16th day of April, 2026.

Marisa Stoller
City Clerk



By:

Deputy City Clerk



CITY CLERK FILE NOTE: Date prepared by Leg.Acts/Agenda Section: 04/16/26.
Date received by Mail Clerk: 04/16/26.
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ADOPTED BY THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

April 7, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 12240

RELATING TO FINANCE, PARKS, AND ELECTIONS; PURSUANT TO CHAPTER IV, SECTION 1(20), CHAPTER XVI, SECTION 6, CHAPTER XX, SECTION 2, AND CHAPTER XXVI, SECTION 1 OF THE TUCSON CHARTER, CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF TUCSON, ARIZONA, ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE CITY'S QUALIFIED ELECTORS, FOR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TUCSON CHARTER CHAPTER IV, SECTION 5 THAT WILL REAUTHORIZE, FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY YEARS AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2027, THE IMPOSITION OF A ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT (0.1%) CITY SALES TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, EXHIBIT EXPANSION, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE AT THE REID PARK ZOO; SPECIFYING THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR THE MEASURE TO BE VOTED ON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2017, the qualified electors of the City approved Proposition 202, amending Tucson City Charter Chapter IV by adding a Section 5 to authorize a temporary one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) increase in the City sales tax, and Proposition 203, amending Tucson City Code Chapters 19 and 21 to implement that tax, for the purpose of funding capital improvements, infrastructure repair and replacement, exhibit expansion, and related improvements, operations, and maintenance at the Reid Park Zoo (the "Zoo Tax"); and

WHEREAS, the Zoo Tax has been in effect since January 1, 2018, and its terms are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Zoo Tax has generated approximately \$115 million in dedicated revenue, funding critical infrastructure upgrades, new animal habitats,

and expanded educational programming at the Reid Park Zoo, consistent with the purposes approved by voters in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Reid Park Zoo continues to have significant capital improvement needs, including projects such as expanding and improving habitats for lions, rhino, giraffe and new exhibits for pygmy hippo, warthogs and more, which cannot be adequately funded through admissions, memberships, donations, or general fund appropriations alone; and

WHEREAS, the Reid Park Zoo serves as the most visited cultural attraction in Southern Arizona, welcoming approximately 600,000 visitors annually and providing free and reduced-cost educational programming to thousands of students and community members each year; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to refer to the qualified electors of the City for approval or rejection a ballot measure to reauthorize the continued imposition of the Zoo Tax for an additional twenty years beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 2027, in order to continue funding capital improvements, infrastructure repair and replacement, exhibit expansion, and related improvements, operations, and maintenance at the Reid Park Zoo; and

WHEREAS, Article XIII, § 2 of the Arizona Constitution and Chapters XX, § 2 and Chapter XXVI, § 1 of the Tucson City Charter authorize amendment of the Tucson Charter by an amendment submitted by the Mayor and Council to the City's qualified electors for approval or rejection at a general or special election, ratified by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon, and, in the case of Charter amendments, approved by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, Tucson Charter Chapter XVI, § 6 states that Mayor and Council shall, by ordinance, provide for the holding of all municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, Tucson Charter Chapter IV, § 1, ¶ 20 empowers Mayor and Council to specify the time at which and manner in which City elections shall be held; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizenry of the City of Tucson, Arizona, that any special election regarding any proposed charter amendment be called as early as possible prior to the election to: (1) provide optimal notice to the citizenry of the City of Tucson of the election; and (2) permit the City Clerk to meet all administrative requirements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter XVI, § 7 of the Tucson City Charter, A.R.S. §§ 19-125 and 16-502 prescribe certain details of the form of ballot for this election; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to approve the specific ballot language for the question to be presented to the City's qualified electors at the special election on November 3, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUCSON, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, call a special election, to be held in the City of Tucson, Arizona, on November 3, 2026, to submit to the City's qualified electors the following questions:

Proposition _____ – Submitted by the Mayor and Council to the City's qualified electors for approval or rejection. Proposal to amend Tucson Charter Chapter IV, Section 5 to reauthorize, for a period of twenty additional years after December 31, 2027 (January 1, 2028 to December 31, 2047), the charter authorization to impose a one-tenth-cent (0.1%) transaction privilege (sales) tax and use tax to fund capital improvements, infrastructure repair and replacement, exhibit expansion, and related improvements, operations, and maintenance at the Gene Reid Park Zoo.

SECTION 2. The question presented to the qualified electors shall be in substantially the following ballot format:

SAMPLE BALLOT

PROPOSITION/PROPOSICION _____

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TUCSON CHARTER, CHAPTER IV, SECTION 5, SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO THE CITY'S QUALIFIED ELECTORS FOR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, TO REAUTHORIZE, FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY YEARS AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2027 (JANUARY 1, 2028 TO DECEMBER 31, 2047), A ONE-TENTH-CENT (0.1%) TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE (SALES) TAX AND USE TAX TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, EXHIBIT EXPANSION, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE AT THE GENE REID PARK ZOO.

Official Title

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO TUCSON CHARTER, CHAPTER IV, SECTION 5, TO REAUTHORIZE, FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY YEARS AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2027 (JANUARY 1, 2028 TO DECEMBER 31, 2047), A ONE-TENTH-CENT (0.1%) TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE (SALES) TAX AND USE TAX, AND DEDICATING THE TAX REVENUES TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, EXHIBIT EXPANSION, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE AT THE GENE REID PARK ZOO.

Descriptive Title

REAUTHORIZING, FOR THE TWENTY YEARS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2028 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2047, A ONE-TENTH-CENT (0.1%) TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE (SALES) TAX AND USE TAX; DEDICATING THE TAX REVENUES TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, EXHIBIT EXPANSION, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE AT THE GENE REID PARK ZOO.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FORMAT
PROPOSITION/PROPOSICION _____

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TUCSON CHARTER CHAPTER IV, SECTION 5, SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO THE CITY'S QUALIFIED ELECTORS FOR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, TO REAUTHORIZE, FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY YEARS AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2027 (JANUARY 1, 2028 TO DECEMBER 31, 2047), A ONE-TENTH-CENT (0.1%) SALES TAX TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, EXHIBIT EXPANSION, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE AT THE GENE REID PARK ZOO.

A "YES" vote shall have the effect of reauthorizing, for an additional twenty years after December 31, 2027 (January 1, 2028 to December 31, 2047), the one-tenth-cent (0.1%) transaction privilege (sales) tax and use tax to fund capital improvements, infrastructure repair and replacement, exhibit expansion, and related improvements, operations, and maintenance at the Gene Reid Park Zoo.

A "NO" vote shall have the effect of rejecting the proposed reauthorization, for an additional twenty years after December 31, 2027 (January 1, 2028 to December 31, 2047), of the one-tenth-cent (0.1%) transaction privilege (sales) tax and use tax for the Gene Reid Park Zoo.

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**

ORIGINAL AND AMENDED TEXT

See Exhibit A, attached to this Ordinance and incorporated by this reference.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to Tucson Code § 12-13 and A.R.S. § 16-409, the franchise election on November 3, 2026 is called as a vote by mail election, and the City Clerk, with the approval of the Mayor and Council, shall designate voting locations as prescribed in Tucson Charter Chapter XVI, § 10 and Tucson Code § 12-16.

Monday, April 6, 2026

The Honorable Mayor Regina Romero
City of Tucson
Tucson City Hall
255 W. Alameda St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

President & CEO
Nancy J. Kluge

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Chad Driedger

Vice Chair
Daniela Siqueiros

Secretary
Kathy Alexander

Treasurer
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Michael Hannley
Adriana Kong Romero
Dr. Reuben Merideth
Travis Tufts

Dear Mayor Romero,

On behalf of the Reid Park Zoological Society, I am writing to respectfully request that the Tucson City Council consider referring to the ballot a 20-year extension of the City's authority to levy and collect a dedicated sales tax that supports the Reid Park Zoo. This funding was passed by voters in 2017 and the City's authority to impose the tax is set to expire December 31, 2027, hence our request to be included in the November 2026 General Election.

Over the past decade, the one-tenth-of-one-percent funding has enabled transformative improvements that have strengthened Reid Park Zoo as one of Tucson's most beloved community assets. Through this funding, the zoo has expanded and modernized animal habitats, increased accessibility programs, kept admission prices low, enhanced guest experiences, and advanced conservation and education programs that serve thousands of families, students, and guests each year.

We understand there are numerous funding priorities facing the council. And, according to our recent polling, voters are supportive of this potential measure – which does not raise taxes. Polling we conducted in late 2025 revealed that more than 65 percent of Tucson voters surveyed would be willing to continue the current tax for an additional 20 years. In today's polarized political environment, it's worth noting that this measure is supported by the voters from both parties, (R +55%, D +84%), and among all age groups.

Support is highest among folks who have visited the zoo within the past year, with citizens citing the zoo's ability to deliver improvements on time and within budget as reasons to extend the expiration date. This makes us particularly proud as responsible stewardship of taxpayers' dollars is a top priority.

As we look ahead, a ballot referral to reauthorize the City to levy the sales tax would provide the long-term stability necessary to continue improving animal habitats, continue accessibility programs, expanding conservation partnerships, and enhancing the visitor experience for the next generation. A 20-year extension would allow the zoo and the City to build upon the progress made over the past decade and continue delivering meaningful benefits for residents across Tucson.

Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 12240

We respectfully request that Mayor and Council consider placing this item on an upcoming council agenda to allow for discussion and consideration of referring the extension to Tucson voters. We would welcome the opportunity to work closely with your office and city leadership to provide additional information or answer any questions about the proposal.

Thank you for your leadership and continued partnership and support of Reid Park Zoo and the important role it plays in our community.


Sincerely,

Nancy J. Kluge
President & CEO
Reid Park Zoological Society

SECTION 4. The various City officers and employees are authorized and directed to perform all acts necessary or desirable to give effect to this Ordinance.


SECTION 5. WHEREAS, it is necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the City of Tucson that this ordinance become immediately effective, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, April 7, 2026.



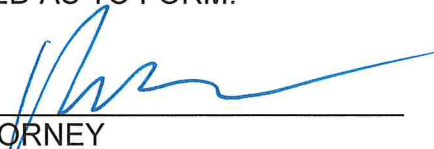
MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY

REVIEWED BY:



CITY MANAGER

DPM/RL/dg
4/2/26