

First Reading: _____
Second Reading: _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE,
PART II, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 12, SECTION
2-193, RELATIVE TO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. That Part II, Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 2, Article III, Division 12,
Section 2-193 of the Chattanooga City Code is hereby amended by deleting same in its entirety
and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 2-193. Running for public office.

Employees are eligible to run for an elective office, including elective offices for the City of
Chattanooga, so long as the employee adheres to the following provisions:

- (1) Federal law prohibits a city employee from running for an elective office if the employee's position or duties are connected with an activity financed in whole or in part by federal loans or grants, unless the election is nonpartisan.
- (2) Before officially filing, employees who seek to run for public office, with the exception of elected officials of the City of Chattanooga, shall give written notice to the employee's Department Director or Administrator stating the intention to seek elective office and the title of the elective office the employee will seek.
- (3) The employee's Department Director or Administrator shall immediately give written notice of the employee's intent to the City's Chief Operating Officer, including a copy of the letter of intent from the employee.
- (4) The employee's Department Director, Administrator, Chief Operating Officer and/or Mayor hold the right to place the employee on a leave of absence if it is determined that the employee's candidacy interferes with the employee's assigned job duties and responsibilities, represents a conflict of interest, or if

the employee is found to be engaging in political activity of any kind during the performance of their job. If the employee wishes to continue receiving compensation when placed on leave of absence, the employee shall first use compensatory leave, then personal leave. When all accrued leave is finally exhausted, the employee may be placed on leave of absence without pay subject to the provisions of Section 2-163 of the City Code. Such leave shall extend until the employee withdraws his/her candidacy or until the date such employee is either finally elected or not elected; however, the Mayor may grant such leave for a longer period of time if requested by such employee.

- (5) Should the employee be successful in acquiring the elective office sought, other than a City of Chattanooga elective office, the employee shall be allowed to continue City employment as long as the employee's elected responsibilities do not conflict with the employee's assigned job duties and responsibilities. If a difference of opinion as to conflict occurs between the employee and the employee's Department Director or Administrator, the matter shall be presented to the Chief Operating Officer for resolution, and the decision of the Chief Operating Officer shall be binding on both the employee and the employee's Department Director or Administrator.
- (6) Should problems arise in the matter of City employees seeking elective office that are not defined in this section, the matter shall be presented to the Chief Operating Officer for resolution, and the decision of the Chief Operating Officer shall be final.
- (7) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to be inconsistent with any applicable state or federal statute or regulation that may provide otherwise, and this section shall be supplemental to any such applicable state or federal regulation or statute.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect within two (2) weeks from its passage.

Passed on second and final reading: _____

CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED: _____ DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR