Ordinance 0007-22 – Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers

An ordinance to create Chapter 2, Article III, Division 11 of the Municipal Code of the City of Racine, Wisconsin.

The Common Council of the City of Racine, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

Part 1: Chapter 2, Article III, Division 11 is created as follows:

Division 11. - Board of absentee ballot canvassers

Sec. 2-321. – Created; composition; term.

(a) Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 7.52 and 7.53, there is hereby created a board of absentee ballot canvassers. The purpose of the board of absentee ballot canvassers is to canvass all absentee ballots at all elections held within the city of Racine.

(b) The board of absentee ballot canvassers shall be composed of the city clerk, or a qualified elector of the city designated by the city clerk, and two other qualified electors of the city appointed by the city clerk. The city clerk may appoint additional inspectors to assist the board in canvassing absentee ballots, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 7.30(2)(a) and 7.52(1)(b). In such case, an odd number of inspectors shall be appointed, and at no time may there be fewer than 3 inspectors who serve.

(c) The first term for the members of the board of absentee canvassers shall expire on December 31, 2023. For subsequent terms, the members of the board of absentee ballot canvassers shall serve for two-year terms commencing on January 1 of each even-numbered year, except that any member who is appointed to fill a permanent vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of the original appointee.

Sec. 2-322. Canvassing of absentee ballots.

(a) In lieu of canvassing absentee ballots at polling places, the board of absentee ballot canvassers shall canvass all absentee ballots at all elections held in the city pursuant to procedures established by the state division governing elections.

(b) The city clerk shall give at least 48 hours' notice of any meeting under this section.

(c) The city clerk, no later than the closing hour of the polls, shall post at the city clerk's office and on the city of Racine website, and shall make available to any person upon request, a statement of the number of absentee ballots that the city clerk has mailed or transmitted to electors and that have been returned by the closing hour on election day. The posting shall not include the names or addresses of any electors.

Part 2: This ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the members-elect of the City Common Council and publication or posting as required by law.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes section 62.09(8)(c), the mayor shall have the veto power as to all acts of the common council, except such as to which it is expressly or by necessary implication otherwise provided. All such acts shall be submitted to the mayor by the clerk and shall be in force upon approval evidenced by the mayor's signature, or upon failing to approve or disapprove within 5 days, which fact shall be certified thereon by the clerk. If the mayor disapproves the mayor's objections shall be filed with the clerk, who shall present them to the council at its next meeting. A two−thirds vote of all the members of the council shall then make the act effective notwithstanding the objections of the mayor.