

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-042

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION FOR MUNICIPAL CLERKS AND EMPLOYEES WHO PERFORM MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WORK OR HAVE ANY PART IN CODE ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS OF A CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, many municipal staff who perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings that could lead to a criminal prosecution or code enforcement actions are exposed to threats and other acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, municipal clerks often administer elections, and some election workers have been targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of materials they are responsible for; and

WHEREAS, municipal clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances and, occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants; and

WHEREAS, currently public records exemptions in Florida include those for local personnel who either investigate, enforce or otherwise provide a service that can result in contentious interactions when action is taken, and municipal clerks and their staff fall within the need for a window for greater protection; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Association of City Clerks is very concerned about the safety and well-being of the municipal clerks and their staff who serve the public daily and are, oftentimes, the first municipal contact for citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Section 1: The Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches hereby adopts the recitals set forth in this Resolution (whereas clauses) as the legislative findings of the Town Council.

Section 2: The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, hereby urge and encourage the Florida State Legislature to enact legislation to provide a public records exemption for municipal clerks and employees who perform municipal elections work or have any part in code enforcement functions for a municipality.

Section 3: The Town Clerk is hereby directed and authorized to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, each State Senator and State Representative in the Broward County Legislative Delegation, as well as the Florida League of Cities (FLC) and the Broward County Municipal Clerks Association (BCCMA).

Section 4: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

[Signatures on Following Page]

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, FL,

this 27th day of February, 2025, on a motion by C/m JABLONSKI

and seconded by V/m HARTMANN.

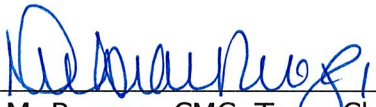
Breitkreuz	<u>YES</u>
Hartmann	<u>YES</u>
Allbritton	<u>YES</u>
Jablonski	<u>YES</u>
Kuczenski	<u>YES</u>

Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nays	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>
Abstaining	<u>0</u>



Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Keith M. Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney
1001.013.2025