One-reading Ordinance ordering a runoff election to be held on December 12, 2026 in the City of Corpus Christi for the election of Mayor, Two At-Large Council Members, District One Council Member, District Two Council Member, District Three Council Member, District Four Council Member, and District Five Council Member; designating polling place locations; enacting provisions incident to and relating to the subject and purpose of this ordinance.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Corpus Christi, by Ordinance No. 033982 on August 11, 2026, ordered and called a General Election for the election of Mayor and eight Council Members to be held on November 3, 2026;

WHEREAS, Ordinance 033982 enacted provisions incident to and relating to said General Election;

WHEREAS, Corpus Christi City Charter Article II City Council Section 1 provides that the City Council consists of a Mayor and eight Council Members serving two-year terms; that five Council Members are elected by majority vote from single member districts; that three Council Members are elected at large by plurality vote, with each winner required to receive at least twelve percent of the total votes cast for all at large candidates; that the Mayor is elected at large by majority vote; and that, when a runoff election is required, all Council Members take office at the first Council meeting after the votes from the runoff election are canvassed;

WHEREAS, Corpus Christi City Charter Article II City Council Section 2 (c) provides that in an election of at large Council Members, each voter may cast as many votes as there are at large positions to be filled, but may not cast more than one vote for any one candidate;

WHEREAS, Corpus Christi City Charter Article II City Council Section 3 provides that a runoff election shall be held if no candidate for Mayor, or no candidate for a single member district seat, receives a majority of all votes cast for that office, with the two candidates receiving the most votes standing for election; that if fewer than three at large candidates each receive at least twelve percent of the total votes cast for all at large candidates, a runoff shall be held among the four, three, or two remaining candidates receiving the most votes (if zero, one, or two candidates, respectively, reached twelve percent), with the at large runoff winners determined by plurality vote; and that the runoff election shall be held in accordance with state law;

WHEREAS, the official canvass of said election reveals that none of the candidates for the offices of Mayor, Two At Large Council Members, District One Council Member, District Two Council Member, District Three Council Member, District Four Council Member, and District Five Council Member received the number of votes required for election; and;

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 033982 provided that a runoff election, if one is necessary, shall be held on Saturday, December 12, 2026;

WHEREAS, Election Code Section 2.024 provides that not later than the fifth day after the date the final canvass of the main election is completed, the authority responsible for ordering the main election shall order the runoff election;

WHEREAS, the City has entered into a contract for Election Services with the Nueces County Clerk pursuant to Contract No.C2026-120 filed of record with the Office of the City Secretary; and

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WHEREAS, the County Clerk's Office has notified the City Secretary that the earliest it could begin early voting is Monday, November 30, 2026, which is the earliest date practicable in accordance with Texas Election Code 85.001(d), and early voting by personal appearance ends on Tuesday, December 8, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. A runoff election for the offices of Mayor, Two at large Council Members, and Council Member Districts One, Two, Three, Four, and Five shall be held on Saturday, December 12, 2026, with the names of the following candidates for the respective offices as follows:

Candidates for Mayor:	Paulette M. Guajardo and Gil Hernandez
Candidates for Two At-Large Council Members:	Carolyn Vaughn, Merida Nardone Mendoza, and Michael Miller
Candidates for Council Member District One:	Tracy McCall and Billy Lerma
Candidates for Council Member District Two:	Selena Guerra and Laura Flores Commons
Candidates for Council Member District Three:	Robert Rocha and Eric Cantu
Candidates for Council Member District Four:	Kristina Nelson and Dan Herrington
Candidates for Council Member District Five:	David Peña and Merida Gonzalez Forrest

SECTION 2. That at said election herein ordered, all qualified voters of the City of Corpus Christi eligible to vote in the runoff election shall be permitted to vote as provided by law.

SECTION 3. The names of candidates for said offices shall be placed on said ballot in the manner and form prescribed by law.

SECTION 4. The voting system used by Nueces County and certified by the Texas Secretary of State shall be used at the election in accordance with the Texas Election Code.

SECTION 5. The election shall be held at the polling places designated by the Nueces County

Clerk, as set forth on Attachment A hereto incorporated by reference and made part of this ordinance. The election shall be held in accordance with the election laws of the State of Texas and in accordance with ordinances of the City Council. Nueces County participates in the Countywide Polling Place Program under Election Code Section 43.007 as amended, meaning that any qualified registered voter of the City of Corpus Christi can vote in the election at any polling place identified in Attachment A. The polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

SECTION 6. The City Secretary shall conduct the election as directed by Ordinance of the City Council and by law.

SECTION 7. Early voting for the election in person will begin on the earliest date practicable in accordance with Texas Election Code 85.001(d) on Monday, November 30, 2026, and end on Tuesday, December 8, 2026. Early voting shall be conducted at the main early voting location and the temporary branch polling places, on the dates and at the times, set forth on Attachment B to this Ordinance hereto incorporated by reference and made part of this ordinance. The City Secretary is authorized, in the event of an emergency preventing any of the designated polling places from being utilized, to provide for suitable replacement locations. Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk, is the Early Voting Clerk. Applications for a ballot by mail must be received by the Early Voting Clerk not later than the close of business on Tuesday, December 1, 2026.

SECTION 8. The City Secretary is directed to post and publish such election notices as are required by the Election Laws of the State of Texas. The City Secretary is further appointed as the authority and officer responsible for the conduct of said election and is hereby authorized and directed to make all necessary arrangements for the holding of said election in accordance with and subject to the laws of this State including but not limited to coordinating the election process, tabulation equipment, and supplies in accordance with the Contract for Election Services with Nueces County. The City Secretary is authorized to approve all lawful changes and additions to the procedures provided herein in order to implement such agreement, including, but not limited to provisions for substations. The City Manager or designee is authorized to execute any amendment to the Contract for Election Services needed to conduct the runoff election.

SECTION 9. By approving and signing this ordinance, the Mayor officially confirms as her action all matters recited in this ordinance which by law come within her jurisdiction.

SECTION 10. If for any reason any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word, or provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect any other section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word, or provision of this ordinance, for it is the definite intent of this City Council that every section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase, word, or provision hereof be given full force and effect for its purpose.

SECTION 11. This section constitutes a written request by the Mayor or a majority of the members of the City Council to pass this ordinance finally on the date of introduction due to an emergency. The City Council finds and declares an emergency due to the need for immediate action necessary for the efficient and effective administration of City affairs; and suspends the City Charter rule that requires consideration of and voting upon ordinances at two regular meetings so that this ordinance is passed and takes effect upon first reading as an emergency measure.

PASSED and APPROVED on the 17th day of November, 2026.

ATTEST:

Paulette Guajardo, Mayor

Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary

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ATTACHMENT A

Election Day Polling Places
Saturday, December 12, 2026, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Locations will be posted online at
https://www.corpuschristitx.gov/department-directory/city-secretary/elections/2026-election-central/

1. Adkins Middle School, 2402 Ennis Joslin Dr.
2. Bishop Multipurpose Building, 115 S. Ash Ave., Bishop
3. Calallen ISD Admin Building, 4205 Wildcat Dr.
4. Carroll High School, 3202 Saratoga Blvd.
5. City Hall, 1201 Leopard St.
6. Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center, 5151 McArdle Rd.
7. Del Mar College Oso Creek Campus, 7002 Yorktown Blvd.
8. Ethel Eyerly Senior Center, 654 Graham Rd.
9. Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Dr.
10. Grant Middle School, 4350 Aaron Dr.
11. Greenwood Senior Center, 4040 Greenwood Dr.
12. Hilltop Community Center, 11425 Leopard St.
13. Island Presbyterian Church, 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
14. Johnny Calderon Building, 710 E. Main St., Robstown
15. Nueces County Courthouse, 901 Leopard St.
16. Port Aransas ISD Annex Bldg., 100 S. Station St., Port Aransas
17. Veterans Memorial High School, 3750 Cimarron Blvd.
18. West Oso Admin. Bldg, 5350 Bear Ln.

ATTACHMENT B

Early voting begins Monday, November 30, 2026 and ends Tuesday, December 8, 2026
Early Voting Clerk: Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands

Early Voting Clerk's mailing address:
Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk
ATTN: Elections Division
P.O. Box 2627
Corpus Christi, TX 78403

Applications for a ballot by mail must be received by the Early Voting Clerk not later than the close of business on Tuesday, December 1, 2026. Completed ballots by mail must be received by the Early Voting Clerk no later than Saturday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Early Voting Location

Nueces County Courthouse
1st Floor Atrium
901 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Monday, November 30 – Friday, December 4, 2026	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, December 7 – Tuesday, December 8, 2026	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Branch Polling Locations

Approved locations will be posted online at
https://www.corpuschristitx.gov/department-directory/city-secretary/elections/2026-election-central/

Monday, November 30 – Friday, December 4, 2026	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, December 7 – Tuesday, December 8, 2026	7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

1. Adkins Middle School, 2402 Ennis Joslin Dr.
2. Carroll High School, 3202 Saratoga Blvd.
3. City Hall, 1201 Leopard St.
4. Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center, 5151 McArdle Rd.
5. Ethel Eyerly Senior Center, 654 Graham Rd.
6. Grant Middle School, 4350 Aaron Dr.
7. Greenwood Senior Center, 4040 Greenwood Dr.
8. Hilltop Community Center, 11425 Leopard St.
9. Island Presbyterian Church, 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
10. Veterans Memorial High School, 3750 Cimarron Blvd.
11. West Oso Admin. Bldg, 5350 Bear Ln