

**COUNCIL OF THE  
VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04**

For the February 12, 2025  
Council Meeting

Introduced by: Mayor Michael L. Booker  
Supported by:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING REFERRAL OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHLAND HILLS CHARTER BY AMENDING ARTICLE IX, SECTION 5. FINANCES AND TAXATION AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS FOR PLACEMENT ON THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 BALLOT, DIRECTING THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.**

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Article IX, Section 7, Periodic Review, the Village Charter Review Commission (CRC) was duly appointed in November, 2024 and charged with the duty to review the Village Charter and recommend that issues to change the language of the Charter be submitted to Council for approval by ordinance to submit the issues to the electors for their approval or rejection on a separate ballot at the next general election in November following the appointment of the members of the CRC which would be held on November 4, 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, the CRC has held meetings and discussions regarding proposed changes to the Village Charter and approved and recommended that changes be made to Article IX, Section 5 Finances and Taxation which provides in part that the laws of the State of Ohio relating to expenditures which includes purchasing and bidding shall apply to the Village, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Article IX, Section 7, Periodic Review, the proposed issues submitted by the CRC to Council shall be approved by ordinance and certified to the Board of Elections for placement on the ballot at the next General Election which will be November 4, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO:**

**Section 1:** Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution and Article IX, Section 7 of the Village of Highland Hills Charter, the Village Charter Review Commission has proposed to Council and this Council pursuant to the same section does hereby authorize and direct the submission to the electors of the Village of Highland Hills, at an election to be held in the usual places of voting in said Village on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, a proposed amendment to amend Article IX, Section 5, Finances and Taxation of the Village Charter such that if approved by a majority vote of the Village Electors, it shall be effective immediately upon certification of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the electors of the

Village of Highland Hills, Ohio, Article IX, Section 5, Finances and Taxation, as certified by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, shall be amended and shall read as follows:

**ARTICLE IX, SECTION 5. FINANCES AND TAXATION.**

The laws of the State of Ohio relating generally to budgets, appropriations, deposits, expenditures, debts, bonds, and other fiscal matters of the Municipality shall be applicable to the Municipality, except as modified by or necessarily inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. **Council may, by ordinance, provide for different rules or procedures for determining the fiscal affairs of the Municipality. Said rules or procedures shall apply except when by the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the general laws must govern.** The power of Council to levy taxes shall be subject to the limitations now or hereafter provided by the Constitution and the general laws of the State of Ohio and nothing contained in this Charter shall be construed as authorizing the levy of any taxes in excess of such limitation without a vote of the people.

**Section 2:** The Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County is hereby directed to submit the following question to the electors of the Village at the General Election on November 4, 2025:

**PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT**

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS,  
ARTICLE IX, SECTION 5, FINANCES AND TAXATION, BE  
AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE BY  
ORDINANCE DIFFERENT RULES FOR DETERMINING THE FISCAL  
AFFAIRS OF THE VILLAGE?

	YES
	NO

**Section 3:** That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to certify a copy of this ordinance to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections prior to August 1, 2025 in compliance with Article IX, Section 6 of the Charter, for placement of this important proposed charter amendment on the ballot in the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025.

**Section 4:** That upon approval of a Majority of Electors, and after certification of this Charter amendment provision by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, the amendment specified in

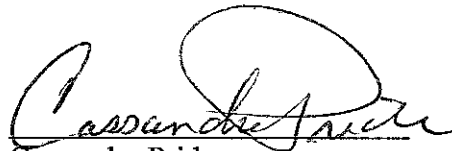
Section 2 shall be effective immediately upon certification.

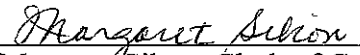
**Section 5:** Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an orderly meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were conducted in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Passed in Council this 16th day of April, 2025.

First Reading 2/12/25      Second Reading 3/12/25      Third Reading 4/16/25

Vote: Pride ☒ yea ☐ nay      Greene ☒ yea ☐ nay      Mills ☒ yea ☐ nay  
McManus ☒ yea ☐ nay      Wright ☒ yea ☐ nay

  
Cassandra Pride  
President of Council  
4/16/25  
Date

Attest:   
Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council  
4/16/25  
Date

Filed with the Mayor:  ☒  
4/16/25  
Date

Approved By:   
Michael L. Booker, Mayor  
4/16/25  
Date