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1 WHEREAS, A ranked choice voting system, also commonly referred to as
2 an “instant runoff” would help eliminate costly separate runoff elections in the
3 City, and avoid holding a runoff in the middle of the winter holiday season for
4 candidates, elected officials, voters; and

5 WHEREAS, In contrast to the City’s current post-election runoff system, a
6 ranked choice voting system would provide voters the opportunity to rank
7 candidates by preference on their ballots during regular local elections; and

8 WHEREAS, Runoff elections often suffer from significantly lower turnout
9 compared to the initial election. Adopting a ranked choice voting system and
10 allowing voters to express their preferences for multiple candidates in the
11 initial election could lead to higher overall voter participation in elections; and

12 WHEREAS, Ranked choice voting and “instant runoffs” are another tool,
13 similar to early voting, expanded voting hours, and mail-in and absentee
14 voting that can be used to accommodate various barriers to voter
15 participation, including but not limited to, work commitments, childcare
16 responsibilities, and transportation issues; and

17 WHEREAS, An education campaign administered by Clerk’s Office will
18 inform the public about the transition to ranked choice voting, explain how the
19 system functions, and encourage voter participation; and

20 WHEREAS, In New Mexico, both Santa Fe and Las Cruces use ranked
21 choice voting in their local elections, and it has been adopted in additional 60+
22 jurisdictions nationwide; and

23 WHEREAS, State Law allows municipalities to amend their Charter by
24 ordinance to allow for a ranked-choice runoff election. NMSA 1978, §1-22-16.

25 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
26 ALBUQUERQUE:

27 SECTION 1. Article II, Sections 7 and 8 of the City Charter are hereby
28 repealed and replaced with the following:

29 “[Section 7. RANKED CHOICE VOTING
30 (a) Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 1-22-16, the City of Albuquerque
31 adopts a ranked-choice runoff election to allow voters participating in the
32 regular local election to rank the candidates for Mayor and City Council in the
33 order of preference for the voter.”

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1 **(b) The City will begin using ranked-choice voting with the regular local**
2 **election held in November of 2025 and will continue to do so in all subsequent**
3 **elections.**

4 **(c) A ranked-choice runoff election shall be conducted on the same**
5 **ballot as the regular local election to allow the voter to rank the candidates for**
6 **office in the voter’s preferred order.**

7 **(d) The City will adhere to and comply with the rules governing ranked-**
8 **choice runoff elections issued by the New Mexico Secretary of State.]”**

9 **SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,
10 word or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
11 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
12 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. The Council
13 hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section,
14 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
15 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

16 **SECTION 3. COMPILATION.** SECTION 1 of this Ordinance shall amend, be
17 incorporated in, and be made part of the City Charter of the City of
18 Albuquerque.

19 **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance takes effect five (5) days
20 after publication by title and general summary.

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