

CITY OF VENICE ELECTIONS LAWS

City Charter Sec. 3.03. - Qualifications.

Any resident of the city who has been a registered voter in the city for 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of qualifying shall be eligible to hold the office of mayor or city councilmember. A resident, for the purpose of qualifying for office, shall be a person whose principal place of physical residence is in the city on a continuing basis. The city council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members. (Ord. No. 99-3, § 2, 1-26-99)

Chapter 22 - ELECTIONS

Sec. 22-1. - Procedure for qualifying for office.

Every candidate for the office of mayor and/or councilmember shall qualify for such office by complying with the election code of the state, except that the qualification papers shall be filed with the city clerk. The qualification papers shall be filed with the city clerk no earlier than noon of the 78th day and no later than noon of the 74th day prior to the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November in each year for each municipal election. The qualification papers shall indicate the office for which the candidate is seeking qualification. (Code 1982, § 2-13; Ord. No. 97-14, § 1, 3-11-97; Ord. No. 2005-30, § 1, 7-12-05; Ord. No. 2014-21, § 2, 7-29-14)

Charter reference— Qualifications, [§ 7.03](#).

Sec. 22-2. - Preparation of ballots.

After the time for qualification has expired, the city clerk shall forward to the county supervisor of elections the names of the candidates for the office of mayor and/or councilmember who have duly qualified in conformity with the provisions of this chapter and state law. The name of each candidate shall carry a designation of the office being sought. (Code 1982, § 2-14)

Charter reference— Form of ballots, [§ 7.04](#).

Sec. 22-3. - Designation of polling places and publication of notice.

At least 25 days prior to any municipal election, the city council shall, by ordinance or resolution, designate the polling places for such election; thereupon, the city clerk shall cause a notice to be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, setting forth the date of the election, the purpose thereof and the locations of the polling places. (Code 1982, § 2-18)

Sec. 22-4. - Voting machines or devices.

Electors other than absentee voters shall vote for the candidate of their choice, or on any question, such as bond authorization or other referenda submitted by ordinance or resolution of the city council, by use of voting machines or devices, in conformity with procedures substantially as set forth in the Florida Statutes used in state elections generally. The city clerk shall arrange with the appropriate county authorities for the use of such machines or devices at all elections. (Code 1982, § 2-15)

State Law reference— Electronic voting, F.S. § 101.5601 et seq.; absentee ballots, F.S. § 101.6105.

Sec. 22-5. - Canvassing board.

In the years the city election is not held in conjunction with a county election, the canvassing board shall consist of the county supervisor of elections and the city clerk, and the mayor when not on the ballot, or alternatively, the mayor shall select a representative from the city council who is not on the ballot for that election. (Code 1982, § 2-16; Ord. No. [2023-22](#), § 2, 6-27-23)

State Law reference— Canvass of elections, F.S. § 101.5614.

Sec. 22-6. - Certification of election results.

The city clerk shall transmit the unofficial returns of the municipal election to city council at a special meeting set by the city clerk within the last 15 days of the month of November. At such special meeting, city council shall certify the election results and the winning candidate(s) shall be sworn in. The city clerk shall furnish a certificate of election to each person shown to have been elected. (Code 1982, § 2-19; Ord. No. 2005-41, § 1, 9-27-05; Ord. No. 2009-03, § 2, 5-12-09; Ord. No. 2014-21, § 3, 7-29-14; Ord. No. 2016-12, § 2, 7-13-16)

- **Sec. 22-8. - Discharge of duties.**

City council members shall continue to hold their office and discharge their duties until their successor is duly certified as elected in accordance with article II, [section 3.01](#) of the city Charter. (Ord. No. 2015-06, § 2, 1-27-15)

Chapter 87 – Land Development Code

Section 3.5.3 Temporary signs (includes political signs).

Types of Temporary Signs.

1. **Residential Yard Signs.** Up to two (2) temporary yard signs may be permitted in residential yards, with neither to exceed three (3) square feet in area per sign.

2. **Non-residential Signs.** Limited to one (1) temporary sign per business of one (1) square foot per linear foot of building or twenty (20) square feet, whichever is less.

General Standards for Temporary Signs. All temporary signs shall meet the following criteria:

1. Does not interfere with visibility or impede the safety of pedestrians or motorists.
2. Shall be set back a minimum of two (2) feet from the edge of pavement of a street.
3. Not illuminated.
4. Displayed a maximum of thirty (30) consecutive days, after which the sign shall be removed.

Specifically Prohibited. The following signs are specifically prohibited:

1. Any sign which constitutes a traffic hazard or a detriment to traffic or pedestrian safety by reason of its size, location, movement, character, coloring or method of illumination;
2. Any sign obstructing the vision of drivers;
3. Any sign obstructing or detracting from the visibility of any official traffic control device by unreasonably diverting or tending to divert the attention of operators of moving vehicles from traffic movement on streets, roads, intersections or access facilities;
4. Any sign erected in such a manner as to obstruct the vision of or constitute a hazard to pedestrians;
5. The use of flashing or revolving lights is prohibited in any sign as constituting a hazard to traffic;
6. Any sign which by glare or method of illumination constitutes a hazard to traffic is prohibited. No sign may use the word "Stop," "Look," "Drive-In" or "Danger" or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic;
7. Signs displaying an obscene or pornographic message;
8. Signs (other than those erected or required to be erected by the municipal, county, state, or federal government) erected on the right-of-way of any street, road or public way, or signs overhanging or infringing upon the right-of-way of any street, road, or public way, except as specifically provided by this section;
9. Signs erected on public property other than signs erected by the municipal, county, state, or federal government for public purposes, unless otherwise authorized by this section;
10. Signs so located as to prevent free ingress or egress into or from any door, passable window or fire escape. No sign shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape;
11. Off-site signs, except for off-site identification/directional signs approved by the Planning Commission pursuant to this Code;
12. Portable signs, except where specifically permitted by the terms of this section;

13. Any sign containing or consisting of banners, balloons, posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, or other similarly moving devices or signs which may move or swing as a result of wind or man-made wind;
14. Signs on or attached to utility poles or trees, shrubs or plants;
15. Outline or strip lighting on corners, eaves, ridges, fascia or other portions of buildings or structures, except when temporarily provided as part of holiday decorations;
16. Roof signs that are constructed upon a roof or roof-mounted structure, except where specifically permitted by terms of this section. Those signs that are placed or mounted on a mansard roof are not considered prohibited roof signs but may be permitted as a building sign;
17. Pole or pylon signs;
18. Illuminated portable signs;
19. Vehicle identification or trailer-mounted signs attached to or painted on a vehicle or trailer that is inoperable, does not have a current State of Florida vehicle registration, or is not regularly used as part of the activity located on the premises, excluding personal use by the business and/or property owner. Any sign bearing a commercial message that is attached to or painted on a vehicle or trailer that is routinely parked or otherwise located on a site other than the site where the business is located, or a sign whereby its size or placement on the vehicle or trailer makes it impractical or dangerous to operate the vehicle or trailer, is also prohibited; and
20. Any sign that emits audible sound, odor, or visible matter such as smoke or steam.