



Department Source: Law
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: April 20, 2026
Re: Declaring the Results of the April 7, 2026 Municipal Election
Impacted Ward: Multiple Wards

Executive Summary

This resolution formally declares the results of the municipal election held on April 7, 2026. At the time of publication of the agenda, the official certification from the County Clerk containing the election results was not available. The resolution on the Council agenda contains unofficial results published by the County Clerk following the election. In the event the number of votes cast for any position changes, an amendment to the resolution will be required.

Discussion

Elected officials may take office at any time after the official election results are certified by the election authority, provided the minimum qualifications and all other preliminary requirements for being sworn into office have been met. Approval of the election results by Council is not a required step; however, it is traditional for the formal passage of a resolution declaring the election results to occur in order to create a permanent City record to track the outcome of an election. In addition, following adoption of the resolution, it is tradition for a formal public swearing in ceremony be conducted for the newly elected officials.

The Sunshine Law requires a minimum of 24 hours' notice of a public meeting, but City staff attempts to provide greater notice of meetings when the opportunity allows. The official certification of election results is not expected to be received until late Wednesday or Thursday morning after the Council agenda has been published. In order to ensure compliance with the Sunshine Law, staff has prepared the resolution declaring the results of the municipal election held on April 7, 2026 based upon the unofficial election results provided by the County Clerk. The unofficial results show that on April 7, 2026, the following votes were cast for the municipal officers appearing on the ballot:

<u>Council Member, First Ward</u>	
Valerie Carroll	500
Write-In Totals	6
<u>Council Member, Fifth Ward</u>	
Don Waterman	983
Christina Hartman	1,335
Write-In Totals	0

The numbers contained within the resolution may change based upon the official certified results of the election. In such event, an amendment to the resolution to reflect the official certification will be prepared and provided at the meeting.



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Based on the unofficial results of the election, the resolution declares Valerie Carroll the duly elected Council member of Ward 1, and Christina Hartman the duly elected Council member of Ward 5.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Not applicable.
Long-Term Impact: Not applicable.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Table with 2 columns: Date, Action. Row 1: 01/20/2026, B1-26 (Ordinance No. 026202): Calling the municipal election to be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, to elect Council Members for Wards 1 and 5 for the City of Columbia.

Suggested Council Action

Adoption of the resolution.