



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Law
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: April 17, 2025
Re: Declaring the Results of the April 8, 2025 Municipal Election

Executive Summary

This resolution formally declares the results of the municipal election held on April 8, 2025. 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. In order to ensure compliance with the Sunshine Law, staff has prepared the resolution declaring the results of the municipal election held on April 8, 2025 based upon the unofficial election results published by the County Clerk. The unofficial results show that on April 8, 2025, the following votes were cast for the municipal officers appearing on the ballot:

Council Member-at-Large (Mayor)

Tanya Heath	779
Barbara Buffaloe	14,073
Blair “Murph” Murphy	10,663
Write-In Totals	37

Council Member, Third Ward

Jacquelyn “Jacque” Sample	2,299
Write-In Totals	21

Council Member, Fourth Ward

Ron Graves	2,775
Nick Foster	4,570
Write-In Totals	5



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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.

Based on the unofficial results of the election, the resolution declares Barbara Buffaloe the duly elected Council Member-at-Large (Mayor), Jacque Sample the duly elected Council member of Ward 3, and Nick Foster the duly elected Council member of Ward 4.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None.

Long-Term Impact: Unknown.

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

Date	Action
01/21/2025	B1-25 (Ordinance No. 025878): Calling a municipal election for Council Member-at-large (Mayor) and Council Members for Wards 3 and 4.

Suggested Council Action

Adoption of the resolution.