

ORDINANCE NO. 1022-G

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM AS PART OF THE GENERAL CITY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2011; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY COUNCIL TO GRANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTIONS IF THE BALLOT QUESTION CONTAINED IN THIS ORDINANCE IS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS VOTING ON SAID QUESTION AT THE NOVEMBER 8, 2011 ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg hereby makes the following findings:

1. That a recognized function of the City is to promote economic development within its jurisdiction by providing financial incentives that will encourage new businesses to relocate within its jurisdiction and existing businesses to expand creating employment opportunities that will benefit the entire community.

2. That the current economic climate has resulted in a high unemployment rate in the City of St. Petersburg, impacting the quality of life for its citizens and the sustainability of local businesses.

3. That many of the surrounding Florida counties and cities including but not limited to City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, City of Sarasota and Sarasota County have already implemented ad valorem tax exemption programs potentially putting the City of St. Petersburg at a competitive disadvantage in the recruitment of new businesses and the retention of existing and expanding businesses.

4. That the City desires to offer an Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for new businesses relocating to the City of St. Petersburg and to businesses already situated in the City of St. Petersburg that are expanding in order to foster economic growth and increase employment as allowed by state law.

5. That the City Council supports this concept and is placing it before the voters to determine if the voters support the granting of economic ad valorem tax exemptions to new and expanding businesses within the City.

6. That Florida Statutes Section 196.1995 requires a referendum procedure to determine whether a municipality may grant economic ad valorem tax exemptions under s.3, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

SECTION 2. That as part of the general City election to be held on November 8, 2011 the question and title as delineated in Sections 4 and 5 of this Ordinance shall be placed on the ballot at said election.

SECTION 3. That the City Council is authorized to grant, at its discretion, ad valorem tax exemptions for new and expanding businesses in the City of St. Petersburg that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in the City of St. Petersburg pursuant to Florida Statutes 196.1995 and s.3, Art. VII of the State Constitution.

SECTION 4. That the ballot question provided for in Section 2 of this Ordinance shall appear on the ballot in the following form:

Shall the City Council be authorized to grant, pursuant to s.3, Art. VII of the State Constitution, ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in the City of St. Petersburg?

YES - For authority to grant exemptions

NO - Against authority to grant exemptions

SECTION 5. That the title of the ballot question provided for in Section 2 of this Ordinance shall appear on the ballot in the following form:


Providing City Council with the authority to grant economic development ad valorem tax exemptions.

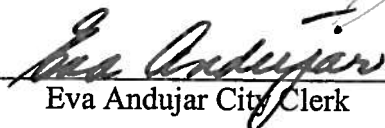
SECTION 6. In the event this ordinance is not vetoed by the Mayor in accordance with the City Charter, Sections 1, 2, 4 through 7 shall become effective upon the expiration of the fifth business day after adoption unless the Mayor notifies the City Council through written notice filed with the City Clerk that the Mayor will not veto the ordinance, in which case Sections 1, 2, 4 through 7 shall become effective immediately upon filing such written notice with the City Clerk. In the event this ordinance is vetoed by the Mayor in accordance with the City Charter, Sections 1, 2, 4 through 7 shall not become effective unless and until the City Council overrides the veto in accordance with the City Charter, in which case Sections 1, 2, 4 through 7 shall become effective immediately upon a successful vote to override the veto.

SECTION 7. That Section 3 shall be effective as of November 9, 2011 if the question contained in Section 4 is approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting on said question at said election.

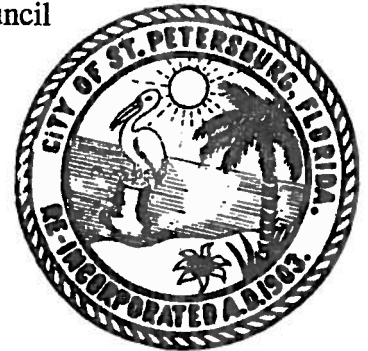
First reading conducted on the 21st day of July, 2011.

Adopted by St. Petersburg City Council on second and final reading on the 4th day of August, 2011


James R. Kennedy Chair-Councilmember
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST: 
Eva Andujar City Clerk

Title Published: Times 1-t 7/24/2011



Not vetoed. Effective date Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.