

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF  
THE CITY OF PRAIRIE HOME, MISSOURI**

**ORDINANCE NO. 291**

**AN ORDINANCE SETTING AN ELECTION ON APRIL 2,  
2024 FOR THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF  
PRAIRIE HOME, MISSOURI TO DECIDE WHETHER TO  
FOREGO ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR SIX  
(6) YEARS, IF THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FILING  
EQUALS THE NUMBER OF SEATS UP FOR ELECTION,  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSMo. § 115.124**

**WHEREAS**, Section 115.124 RSMo (2018) allows for a governing body of a municipality with a population of two thousand (2,000) or less to pass an ordinance calling an election for the qualified voters to decide whether to forego annual municipal elections for six (6) years if the number of candidates filing equal the number of seats up for election.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Prairie Home, Missouri (“the City”), as follows:

**Section 1.** The officers of the City are hereby directed to authorize the Cooper County Clerk to issue the necessary lawful notices and prepare the appropriate ballots in order to submit the provisions of this Ordinance No. 291 to the voters of the City for their approval or rejection at the April 2, 2024 municipal election. The ballot language shall be:

- YES  Shall the City of Prairie Home, Missouri, be authorized to forego annual elections if the number of candidates who have filed for a particular office is equal to the number of positions in the office to be filled by the election?
- NO

The voter who desires to vote in favor of said question shall vote “YES.” The voter who desires to vote against said question shall vote “NO.”

**Section 2.** If the majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters of the City are in favor of the question, then the City shall conduct its municipal elections for the following six (6) years immediately thereafter in accordance with RSMo. § 115.124. At the end of such six-year period, it shall be prohibited from conducting elections in such a

manner unless another election is held and the issue is again approved by the majority of the qualified voters.

**Section 3.** If no election is held for such office as provided in this Ordinance No. 291, the candidates shall assume the responsibilities of their offices at the same time and in the same manner as if they had been elected. The election authority shall publish a notice containing the names of the candidates that shall assume the responsibilities of the offices in at least one newspaper of general circulation by the first of the month in which the election would have occurred had it been contested.

**Section 4.** If any portion of this Ordinance No. 291 is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

**Section 5.** This Ordinance No. 291 shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval, subject to voter approval as herein set forth.

**This Ordinance No. 291 was read two (2) times in full and passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

James R. Lachner, Mayor

Attest: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Sue Fontana, City Clerk

**SEAL:**