

ORDINANCE 26-_____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 10 LICENSES, TAXATION AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS, ARTICLE V ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED HOMEOWNERS, SECTION 10-64 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE MARION COUNTY CODE; AUTHORIZING THE QUALIFICATION CRITERIA TO BE ADJUSTED ANNUALLY TO CORRESPOND TO CURRENT FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION NO. 2016-R-337; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE MARION COUNTY CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida (the "Board") has, by previous ordinance, established an assistance program for the economically disadvantaged homeowner; and

WHEREAS, this program provides for the payment by the County of certain annual non-ad valorem assessments on behalf of economically disadvantaged homeowners; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for the program is determined by family gross income and family assets; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that eligibility levels be adjusted annually to correspond to the current Federal Poverty Guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, in regular session, that:

ARTICLE I. SECTION 1. Section 10-64 of the Marion County Code is hereby amended and is set forth in its entirety below, with deletions reflected by ~~strike-through type~~, and additions reflected by underscored type, to read:

Sec. 10-64. Eligibility criteria. Eligibility for the program shall be determined by household gross income and household assets. Eligible levels of income and assets shall be established ~~on April 1~~ of each year, to correspond to the current federal poverty guidelines as published, from time to time, by the federal government. The County Administrator is hereby authorized to set the maximum annual income percentage up to 150% of the then current federal poverty guidelines for subsequent years of the program.

ARTICLE II. SEVERABILITY. Should any provision or section of this Ordinance be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable.

ARTICLE III. REPEAL All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed. Resolution No. 2016-R-337 is hereby repealed.

ARTICLE IV. INCLUSION IN CODE. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, and it is hereby provided that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Marion County, Florida; that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article" or other appropriate designation.

ARTICLE V. EFFECTIVE DATE. A certified copy of this Ordinance as enacted shall be filed by the Clerk of the Board with the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida within ten (10) days after enactment, and this Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with Section 125.66(2), Florida Statutes.

DULY ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026..

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CARL ZALAK, III, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK