

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

September 4, 2019

For More Information:

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Town of Bluffton Municipal Election Filing Period Will Close Friday Sept. 6
Deadline is Still in Effect Despite Hurricane Dorian

Despite the Town of Bluffton offices being closed due to Hurricane Dorian's state of emergency, candidates may still file for office through the Town's filing deadline of Friday, September 6 at 12:00 noon. Unfortunately, there are no provisions under South Carolina law which enable the Town to extend the filing deadline beyond the established filing deadline.

Candidates wishing to file for the offices of Town Council or Mayor and appear on the ballot in the November 5 Town of Bluffton Municipal Election must do the following:

1. Go online to the SC Election Commission Website to obtain a Statement of Intention of Candidacy – Non-Partisan Form. Form can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/BlufftonElection>.
2. Complete the Statement of Intention of Candidacy – Non Partisan Form and email a completed copy to the Town of Bluffton Municipal Clerk at kchapman@townofbluffton.com no later than Friday, September 6 at 12:00 noon.
3. Pay the required filing fee (\$100 for Town Council / \$150 for Mayor) via one of two options:
 - a. Provide complete credit card information in the email to the Town Clerk, to include cardholder name, credit card number and expiration date; or
 - b. If Town Hall opens prior to the September 6, 12:00 noon filing deadline; proceed to Town Hall in person to pay the filing fee during business hours and prior to filing deadline. If Town Hall remains closed beyond the filing deadline due to the State of Emergency, then the candidate must appear in person no later than close of business on the first day in which Town Hall is open for business following the State of Emergency. However, the candidacy application must be turned in prior to September 6 at noon.

4. Candidates are also reminded that they are required to complete forms required by the SC Ethics Commission online at <https://ethics.sc.gov/campaigns>.

For more information about filing for candidacy, please contact Town Clerk Kim Chapman at (cell) 843.247.9150 or via email (kchapman@townofbluffton.com).

Please note Town operations have relocated to the Bluffton Police Department during Hurricane Dorian. Please notify Chapman to arrange filing application.

Qualifications for Candidacy Include:

- Must be a South Carolina registered voter who resides within the Town of Bluffton
- Completion of the required Statement of Intention of Candidacy – Non-Partisan which is available on the South Carolina Election Commission website: <https://tinyurl.com/nonpartisonfilingform>
- Pay a filing fee of \$100.00 for Council seats and \$150 for Mayoral seat
- File a Statement of Economic Interests with the South Carolina State Ethics Commission. This form is located www.ethics.sc.gov. Click “Electronic Filing” located at the top of the home page.

About Town of Bluffton November 5 Election:

The Town of Bluffton Municipal General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Voters may cast their ballot for the office of Mayor and two Town Council seats. Those seats are currently held by Mayor Lisa Sulka, Councilmember Dan Wood and Councilmember Harry Lutz.

The Town of Bluffton operates under a Council-Manager form of government, with a mayor and four additional council members, all of whom are elected at-large. Council members are compensated \$10,000 annually for their service. The mayor is compensated \$15,000 annually.

Council member terms are staggered every two years. Each term is 4 years in length. In 2017, Council members Larry Toomer and Fred Hamilton were re-elected for another term.

In accordance with the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, and the South Carolina Code of Laws, election results are determined under the nonpartisan election and runoff election method. If needed, a runoff election will be held Tuesday, November 19. A runoff election is required if an insufficient number of candidates fail to receive the majority of the vote. Majority vote is determined by dividing the number of votes cast by the number of seats to be filled, and then dividing that resulting number by two.

Voter Registration:

To check voter registration status, verify precinct or polling locations, please visit the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections at www.bcgov.net/vote, or call them at 843-255-6900. For specific information regarding registering to vote: <https://beaufortcountysc.gov/vote/voters.html>.

Voters must be registered no later than October 4, 2019 to participate in the election.