

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

July 30, 2019

For More Information:

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Town of Bluffton Municipal Election Set for November 5
Filing Period Opens August 6

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

The filing period for candidates for Town Council opens on August 6, 2019 at 12 noon and will close on September 6, 2019 at 12 noon. Late filings cannot be accepted.

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.

Note: Candidates will file their Statement of Candidacy and pay their filing fee at Town Hall, 20 Bridge Street. Statements of Economic Interests will be filed directly with the South Carolina State Ethics Commission.

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.

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>.

For more information about filing for candidacy, please contact Town Clerk Kim Chapman at 843.706.4505 or via email (kchapman@townofbluffton.com).

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