

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

July 31, 2017

For More Information:

Debbie Szpanka  
Public Information Officer  
Town of Bluffton  
20 Bridge Street  
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910  
(Office): 843.706.4534  
(Cell): 843.540.2274  
(Email): [dszpanka@townofbluffton.com](mailto:dszpanka@townofbluffton.com)

Town of Bluffton Municipal Election November 7

Filing Period Opens August 9

The Town of Bluffton Municipal General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Voters may cast their ballot for two Town Council seats which are currently held by Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer and Councilman Fred Hamilton. Voters must be registered no later than October 6, 2017 to participate in the election.

The filing period for candidates for Town Council opens on August 9, 2017 at 12 noon and will close on September 8, 2017 at 12 noon. Qualifications for candidacy include being a South Carolina registered voter who resides within the Town of Bluffton, completion of the required Statement of Intention of Candidacy (<http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/pdfs/statement-intention-candidacy.pdf>), paying a filing fee of \$100.00 and filing a Statement of Economic Interests with the South Carolina State Ethics Commission. This form is located [www.ethics.sc.gov](http://www.ethics.sc.gov). Candidates will file their Statement of Intention of Candidacy and pay their filing fee at Town Hall, 20 Bridge Street. Please note the Statement of Intention of Candidacy must be signed in front of Bluffton's Town Clerk Kim Chapman. 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 2019, the seats currently held by Mayor Lisa Sulka and Council members Dan Wood and Harry Lutz will be on the ballot.

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 21. 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.

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

To check voter registration status, verify precinct and polling locations, or to get more information about how to register to vote, please visit the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections at [www.bcgov.net/vote](http://www.bcgov.net/vote), or call them at 843-255-6900.

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