CITY OF HOMESTEAD
2015 ELECTIONS INFORMATION

PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015
(Early Voting: October 1 thru October 3, 2015)
GENERAL ELECTION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015
(Early Voting: October 29 thru October 31, 2015)

1. Opening date for qualifying:

Monday, August 31, 2015, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Closing date for qualifying:

Friday, September 4, 2015, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

2. The Voter Registration Books close ***Tuesday, September 8, 2015***, for the Primary Election and ***Monday, October 5, 2015***, for the General Election.

3. Filing fees: Mayor- $200.00 Council - $100.00
(Candidates should also see City Code Sec. 10-2 (4) (c) for information on the statutory election assessment).

4. To qualify as a Candidate, at the time of qualifying, a candidate must:
   a. Announce whether candidate will be running for Seat #2, 3, 6 or Mayor. Please see the attached City District Map.
   b. File the written Notice of Candidacy (described in City Code Section 10-2 (5) and other qualifying papers.

5. <u>Bond Requirement</u>: Pursuant to City Code Section 23-78 (1) (c), a **$500 cash Temporary Sign Bond** must be posted with the City Clerk. Signs may not be posted or displayed more than ninety (90) days prior to the election or the date of candidate qualification, whichever date is earlier. The bond is refundable provided that the sign code is complied with, and the signs are removed within **fourteen (14) days** after the election.

<u>6. Exemption From Bond Requirement:</u> Any applicant placing less than four (4) political signs not exceeding a size of six (6) square feet per sign shall be exempt from the requirement of a cash bond. Any candidate for elected office who has satisfied his or her qualifying fee requirement pursuant to the alternate means authorized by F.S. § 99.095 or § 99.0955, (the petition method of qualifying) shall be exempt from the requirement of posting the cash bond.

7. Each candidate is permitted only **one (1) poll watcher per polling place at a time.** The City Clerk is to be notified of the name of each poll watcher and the precinct to which they will be assigned.

   Poll watcher forms must be completed in duplicate for each poll watcher in each precinct.

8.

   a. In the event there are not more than two candidates for the office of Mayor or for any particular Council Seat, no Primary Election shall be held for that office or Seat.

   b. The two candidates for the office of Mayor who receive the greatest number of votes in the Primary Election shall be placed on the Ballot for the General Election. If any candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast for Mayor in the Primary Election, he/she shall be deemed elected and no General Election shall be held for Mayor. The Mayor shall be elected to serve a 2-year term of office.

   c. As to each Council Seat, the two candidates who receive the greatest number of votes in the Primary Election shall be placed on the ballot for the General Election. If any Council Seat candidate in the Primary Election receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast for that Seat, he/she shall be deemed elected and his or her name shall only appear on the Vice Mayor item of the ballot of the General Election.

   d. At the General Election, all Council Members elected for seats which are up for election shall be elected to a four-year term of office. The Mayor shall be elected to a two-year term of Office.

   e. The Vice Mayor shall be elected at the General Election by separate ballot (the "Vice Mayor Ballot"). The Vice Mayor Ballot shall list the names of all candidates running for Council Member. The candidate receiving the most votes on the Vice Mayor Ballot, who is also elected to the Council Seat for which he/she is running, shall be elected Vice Mayor. Any candidate who does not wish to be considered for the office of Vice Mayor shall timely notify the City Clerk by the first Monday after the Primary Election so that the candidate's name shall not be placed on the Vice Mayor ballot.

9.

   a. Pursuant to City Charter Section 2.04 "Qualifications", only electors of the City who have resided continuously and have been registered voters in the City for at least one year immediately preceding the date

of filing the Notice of Candidacy to run for Mayor or Council Member and thereafter, shall be eligible to seek or to hold the office of Council Member or Mayor. Further, pursuant to Section 2.04 of the City Charter, to be a candidate for a Seat, it is required that the above-described one year residency be within the specific Residential Area from which the candidate seeks to be elected (except as otherwise specified in City Code Section 10-2(3)(b) and described in paragraph (b) below for contingent candidates).

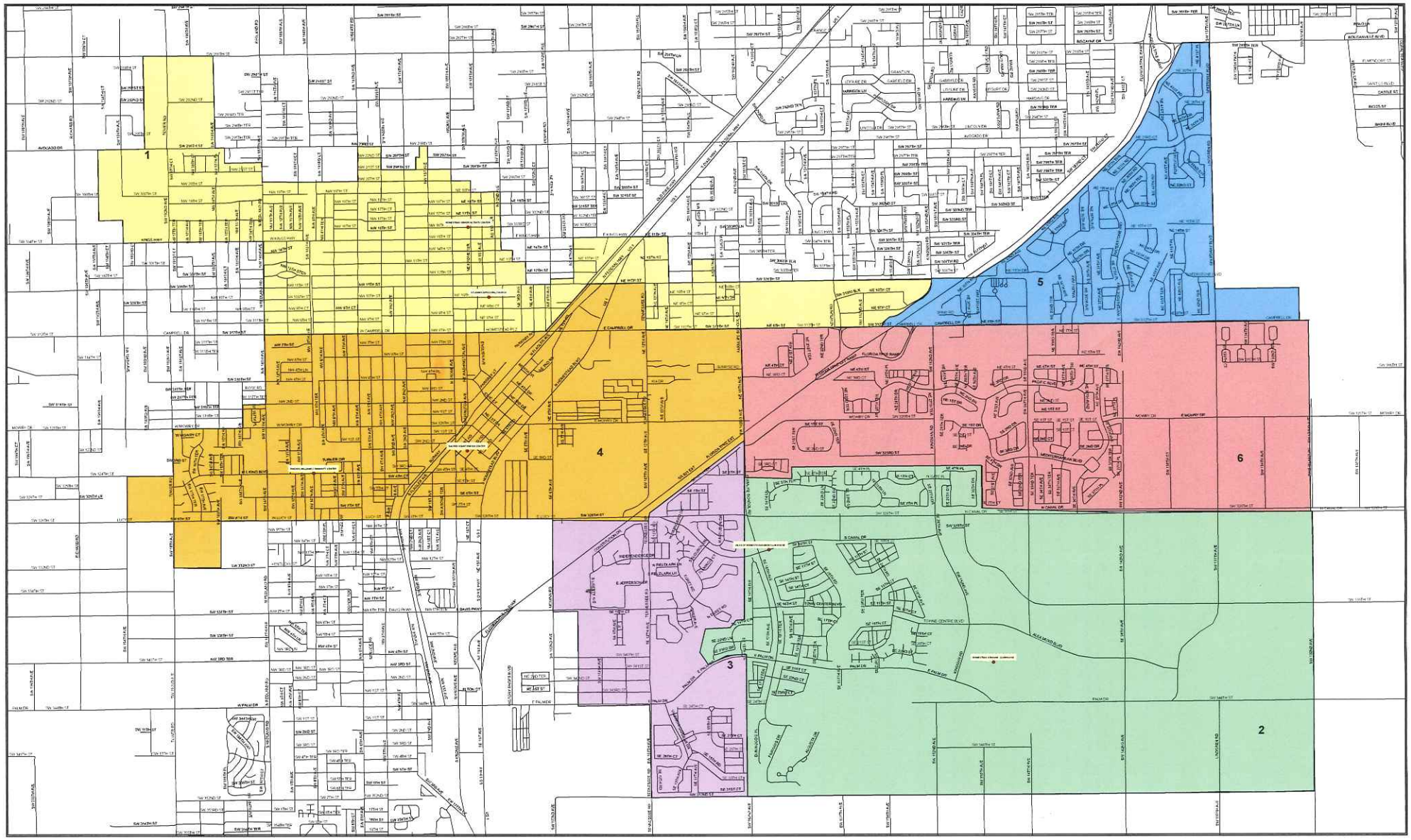
Additionally, as provided by Section 2.04 of the City Charter, the above specified one year voter registration duration requirement shall not apply to any person who is a registered voter at the time of qualification, but was not eligible to register to vote in the City for the prior one year period due solely to such person's age or naturalization status.

b. If no candidate meeting the applicable geographic area residency requirement for a specific Seat qualifies to run for a particular Seat, a candidate residing within the City who resides within any portion of the City and has resided continuously in and has been a registered voter in the City for at least one year immediately preceding the date of filing to run for a Seat may qualify to do so. Any such contingent candidate shall not have his or her name printed upon the official ballot nor be voted for in the Primary Election if any candidate meeting the residency requirements for that particular Seat timely qualifies to run for such Seat.

10. Please read Chapter 10, Elections, of the Code of the City of Homestead and Florida Statutes, Chapter 106 (Attached). Please be advised that the political sign bond provision of City Code Section 10-12 has been superseded by the subsequently adopted provisions of City Code Section 23-78 which are described above.

11. **Notice of Logic and Accuracy Tests:** Will be determined in conjunction with the Miami-Dade County Elections Department.

This information reviews the highlights and pertinent information regarding the election. **Candidates remain responsible for conducting their own careful review of applicable laws**.



Council Seat Districts

- Homestead Polling Locations
- District 1 - Northwest Area - Vice Mayor Stephen R. Shelley
- District 2 - Keysgate - Councilman Jon Burgess
- District 3 - Villages - Councilwoman Judy Waldman
- District 4 - Southwest Area - Councilman Jimmie L. Williams, III
- District 5 - Waterstone - Councilman Elvis R. Maldonado
- District 6 - Oasis - Councilwoman Patricia Fairclough-McCormick
- At Large - Mayor Jeff Porter

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