

ORDINANCE 2026 –

AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF MT. JULIET THE QUESTION: “SHALL THIS MUNICIPALITY REPEAL THE ADOPTION OF HOME RULE?”

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee was incorporated in 1972 under the Uniform City Manager-Commission Charter, as was provided in Title 6 of the Tennessee Code Annotated; and

WHEREAS, during the November 2006 general election, the City of Mt. Juliet placed the question to the residents of Mt. Juliet whether to adopt home rule, and the referendum passed; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the city subsequently approved two amendments to the City’s Home Rule Charter in 2010 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners now desires to repeal the adoption of home rule; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee states, “Any municipality may by ordinance submit to its qualified voters in a general or special election the question: ‘Shall this municipality adopt home rule?’, and such municipality may “repeal [home rule] by the same procedure”; and

WHEREAS, to take the necessary actions to repeal home rule, the City of Mt. Juliet is acting pursuant to Tennessee Attorney General Opinion number 98-106; and

WHEREAS, under home rule, the City of Mt. Juliet cannot request the Tennessee General Assembly to pass private acts for the City’s benefit; however, by repealing home rule, the Tennessee General Assembly can pass private acts for the City of Mt. Juliet, and such private acts could grant the City of Mt. Juliet more opportunities to mitigate the impact of new development and increase revenue; and

WHEREAS, by repealing home rule, the City of Mt. Juliet would cease operating as a home rule municipality and would instead operate under a general law, city manager-commission charter as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6, Chapters 18 through 22, as amended, while retaining the two charter provisions approved by the voters in a referendum in 2010 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, the attached Exhibit A is a sample of how the charter would read if the citizens of Mt. Juliet vote to repeal home rule; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of home rule would take effect on January 4, 2027; and

WHEREAS, public hearings before the Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet were held on July 27 and August 10, 2026, and notice thereof published in the Chronicle of Mt. Juliet for two consecutive weeks on July 22 and July 29, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Juliet will also conduct public informational meetings prior to the referendum for citizens to attend regarding the repeal of home rule.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners for the City of Mt. Juliet hereby requests that the Wilson County Election Commission place on the ballot for the qualified voters of the City of Mt. Juliet, at the general election in November 2026, the following question:

“Shall this municipality repeal the adoption of home rule?”

Section 2. The City of Mt. Juliet shall provide public education on the potential charter change through no less than five very well-publicized meetings prior to November 2026. The City Manager will schedule and organize the dates, times, and places of the five community information meetings concerning the “home rule” ballot question, using several different community meeting rooms.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED

In case of conflict between this ordinance or any part hereof and the whole or part of any existing ordinance of the City, the conflicting ordinance is repealed to the extent of the conflict but no further.

If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect any other section, clause, provision, or portion of this ordinance.

This ordinance shall take effect on the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED:

FIRST READING: July 27, 2026

SECOND READING:

James Maness, Mayor

Kenny Martin, City Manager

ATTEST:

Jennifer Hamblen, CMC, City Recorder

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Samantha A. Burnett, City Attorney