

**COMMISSION ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06
COUNCIL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PUBLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Indiana Open Door Law (IC § 5-14-1.5) declares that political subdivisions exist to serve the people and that their official actions shall be conducted and taken openly so that the people may be informed; and

WHEREAS, many of the most important actions taken by the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners and LaPorte County Council are done in the form of ordinances and resolutions; and

WHEREAS, elected officials can make the most thoughtful and informed decisions when they have an opportunity to contemplate the input and good advice of the public; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the engagement of the public and the thorough review of the county's decisions the Commission and Council jointly set forth requirements to make the ordinance and resolution adoption process more transparent.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA:**

The LaPorte County, IN Code of Ordinances § 30.30 shall be amended, in addition to its existing text, to add:

- (C) No ordinance by the Commission or Council shall be put to a vote unless it has been published on the county website, in a location where such ordinances are consistently posted, at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) prior to a meeting. The date and time of such publication shall be attested in writing by the County Auditor at the time of adoption. Substantial compliance with this subsection shall constitute compliance, and a defect in publication shall not, of itself, invalidate an ordinance that is otherwise properly adopted.
- (D) When an emergency meeting, only as described in Indiana Code § 5-14-1.5-5(d), is called, an ordinance may be published less than 48 hours before that meeting provided that it is published as soon as practicable.
- (E) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to prevent the amendment of a proposed ordinance after it has been published to the county website, provided that the amendments are germane to the draft under consideration. A material amendment, one that introduces an entirely new subject matter or expands the scope of the ordinance in a manner that the public

could not have reasonably anticipated, shall be published anew and shall restart the 48-hour publication period required by subsection (C).

The LaPorte County, IN Code of Ordinances § 30.31 shall be amended to read:

A resolution may be passed upon one reading at the meeting at which it is introduced by the Commission or Council, provided that it has been published on the county website and adopted in the manner provided in § 30.30 (C), (D), and (E).

The LaPorte County, IN Code of Ordinances § 30.33 shall be amended to read:

- (A) All ordinances shall be a part of the county code.
- (B) All adopted ordinances and resolutions of the Commission and Council shall be published to the county's website within 15 business days. The published version shall be signed.
- (C) So as to facilitate the permanent preservation of records, all ordinances and resolutions of the Commission and Council shall be recorded with the County Recorder within thirty days. Such recording is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any recording of ordinances required of the County Auditor under IC 36-2-4-8.

To the extent allowable by law, this ordinance shall take effect for each body, Commission and Council, upon passage. Nothing in this ordinance relieves the Commission or Council of any publication, notice, or recording requirement imposed by Indiana law, including the newspaper-publication requirement of IC 5-3-1 applicable to ordinances subject to IC 36-2-4-8; where state law imposes an additional or stricter requirement, that requirement shall control. If any portion of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Adopted by the Commission this 17th day of August, 2026. (First Reading July 15, 2026)

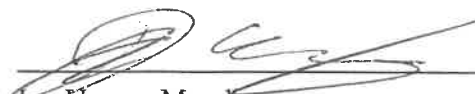
Adopted by the Council this 24th day of August, 2026. (First Reading July 27, 2026)

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Steve Holifield, President

Connie Gramarossa, Vice President

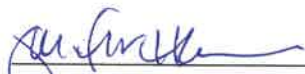


Joe Haney, Member

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL


Adam Koronka, President

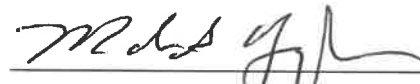

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Attest: Michael Rosenbaum, Auditor