

DESOTO COUNTY

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 -

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-31 AND SECTION 2-32, AND THE SUBSECTIONS CONTAINED THEREIN, OF DIVISION 4, "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE" OF ARTICLE III, TITLED "BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES" OF CHAPTER 2 "ADMINISTRATION", OF THE DESOTO COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND TO CLARIFY THE QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS, AND MINIMUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Advisory Committee ("EDAC") was created by Resolution No. 2010-12, and amended by Resolution No. 2013-49; and

WHEREAS, a partially codified version of Resolution 2013-49 appears in Division 4, of Article III, of Chapter 2 of the DeSoto County ("County") Code of Ordinances ("Code"); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to update the Code provisions related to EDAC membership to reflect that one member should be from the financial services sector and not be limited to the banking industry, to clarify the terms of membership and provide for reappointment of same, and to provide that the absences of an EDAC member does not result in the automatic removal of the member, but instead, the EDAC may vote to excuse a member's absences based on the circumstances presented; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2025, at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the EDAC, the EDAC met and recommended approval of the proposed ordinance as set forth herein.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 4, OF THE DESOTO COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES. Chapter 2, Article III, Division 4 of the County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as set forth below:

DIVISION 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sec. 2-31. Membership and appointment.

The Advisory Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of nine members, not more than 13 members, recommended by staff and approved by the Board.

Sec. 2-31.~~3~~1. Qualifications.

Each member shall be a resident of the County; shall possess an outstanding reputation for civic pride, integrity, responsibility and business or professional ability; and shall have no current financial interest, direct or indirect, in any of the County's economic development programs or projects. The membership of the Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following: one member appointed by the County Commission, one member appointed by the City Council, one member representing the education sector, one member representing the ~~banking industry~~ financial services sector, one member representing private sector agriculture, and the remaining seats shall represent the private business sector and shall serve staggered two-year terms. The original members of the Advisory Committee shall serve the term identified ~~herein~~ at the time of their appointment and may be reappointed upon the expiration of the term.

Sec. 2-31.2. Terms.

Members shall serve for two-year terms and may be reappointed thereafter for additional terms by the Board.

Sec. 2-31.~~6~~3. Vacancies.

The Board shall appoint or re-appoint a member when a vacancy exists.

Sec. 2-32. Conflict of interest.

F.S. ch. 112 shall be applicable to the members of the Advisory Committee.

Sec. 2-32.~~3~~1. Organization and procedure.

The members of the Advisory Committee shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman and both shall serve a term of two years. The Advisory Committee shall hold regular meetings no less than four times a year and such other meeting, as it deems necessary. One-third (1/3rd) of the total membership of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum. All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be public and the Advisory Committee shall maintain written minutes of all proceedings that shall be promptly prepared and recorded. Copies of all minutes and resolutions of the Advisory Committee shall be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board no later than 30 days subsequent

to approval. Any member shall be ~~automatically~~ removed if, in any given calendar year:

- (1) He/she is absent from three consecutive meetings; or
- (2) He/she is absent from more than 50 percent of all of the committee meetings held during a year.

However, prior to any removal, the Advisory Committee shall consider whether the absences should be excused and may vote to excuse the member's absences based on the circumstances presented.

For purposes of this section, a A member shall be deemed absent when he/she is not present at the meeting for at least 75 percent of its duration.

Sec. 2-32.62. Compensation.

Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. It is declared to be the intent of the County that, if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections.

SECTION 3. REPEALER. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith be, and the same, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. CODIFICATION. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of Exhibit A to this Ordinance shall become and made a part of the Code of Ordinances of DeSoto County, Florida, that the sections may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intentions; and that the word "Ordinance" shall be changed to "Section" or other appropriate word, as required.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Mandy Hines
County Administrator

By: _____
Steve Hickox, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM

By: _____
Valerie Vicente
County Attorney