

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023 –061**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MARCH 19, 2024, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE XII, SECTION 12.02 TITLED “VOTING WARD APPORTIONMENT,” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, three-fourths (3/4) of all members elected thereto concurring:

**SECTION 1.** That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the Primary Election to be held on March 19, 2024, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend Article XII, Section 12.02, in the form set for the in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

**SECTION 2.** That the ballots for said election shall, be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

**SECTION 3.** That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article XII, Section 12.02 titled “Voting Ward Apportionment” be amended by allowing for a 15% population disparity between the wards, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

**12.02 VOTING WARD APPORTIONMENT.**

Commencing as early as practicable in the year 1971, and every ten years thereafter, Council shall determine by census the resident population of each ward, and shall apportion them equally, and, if necessary, shall redefine the boundaries thereof, so that there is no disparity, in resident population, of more than 15% between wards; provided, however, that this shall in no way limit, nor preclude, an increase in the number of wards, and further provided that each ward shall be comprised of compact and contiguous territory

**SECTION 4.** That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

**SECTION 5.** That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on March 19, 2024, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.


**SECTION 6.** That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen days prior to the Primary Election to be held March 19, 2024.

**SECTION 7.** That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.


**SECTION 8.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

**SECTION 9.** That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: December 6, 2023  
Date

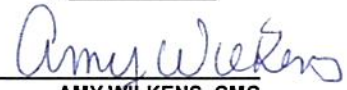
  
Jack Amrhein  
Council President Pro Tem

EFFECTIVE: December 6, 2023  
Date

ATTEST:   
Amy Wilkens, CMC  
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. 2023-061, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON December 6 20 23.

(SEAL)

  
AMY WILKENS, CMC  
CLERK OF COUNCIL