

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHOREACRES, TEXAS, ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2026, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING A BALLOT PROPOSITION ON WHETHER THE CITY OF SHOREACRES, TEXAS, SHALL BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE CITY OF LA PORTE, TEXAS; PROVIDING FOR ELECTION OFFICERS; DESIGNATING THE PLACE AND MANNER OF HOLDING SAID ELECTION; DESIGNATING THE EARLY VOTING POLLING PLACE; DESIGNATING THE EARLY VOTING CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE POSTING AND PUBLICATION OF NOTICE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreacres, Texas (hereinafter referred to as "City 1"), and the City of La Porte, Texas (hereinafter referred to as "City 2"), are contiguous municipalities located within Harris County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 61 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended, contains the procedures for the consolidation of two or more contiguous municipalities; and

WHEREAS, on the 16th day of December, 2025, City 1 received petitions signed by the requisite number of qualified voters of its municipality requesting an election be ordered to consider the consolidation of the municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the City Secretary of City 1 under section 277.002 of the Election Code verified the validity of the petition signatures and confirmed that the petition was signed by the number of qualified voters that equals 15 percent or more of the total vote cast at the most recent general election for municipal officials in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the number of verified valid signatures on the petition was 111. The number of total votes cast at the most recent general election (May 3, 2025) for municipal officials in City 1 was 154. The percentage equals 72 % (which exceeds 15%).

WHEREAS, Section 61.004(a) of the Texas Local Government Code provides that the governing body of the municipality holding an election shall order the election within 45 days after the date the petition is filed; and

WHEREAS, Section 61.004(e) of the Texas Local Government Code provides that the consolidation election shall be held on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Texas Election Code that occurs on or after the 30th day after the date the election is ordered; and

WHEREAS, Section 41.001(a) of the Texas Election Code establishes the 2nd day of May, 2026, as the first uniform election date for the City of Shoreacres, Texas, following the City 1;

WHEREAS, the meeting at which this Ordinance is considered is open to the public as required by law, and public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by Section 551.043 of the Texas Government Code.

WHEREAS, the election shall be conducted separately in each municipality;

WHEREAS, consolidation shall occur only if approved by a majority of the votes cast in each municipality;

WHEREAS, upon consolidation, the consolidated municipality shall be a general-law municipality operating under a form of government prescribed by state law.

WHEREAS, upon consolidation, until successors are elected and qualified, the initial governing body shall consist of the Mayor and aldermen as determined by Section 61.013 of the Texas local Government Code or other applicable general-law provisions.

WHEREAS, officers of the consolidated municipality shall perform their duties in accordance with general law requirements.

WHEREAS, upon consolidation, all real property of each municipality vests in the consolidated municipality;

WHEREAS, upon consolidation, all valid debts, liabilities, and contractual obligations of each municipality become obligations of the consolidated municipality;

WHEREAS, upon consolidation, taxes previously authorized shall continue to be levied and collected until all outstanding obligations are satisfied, as required by law.

WHEREAS, City 1 finds that consolidation will result in the merging of all governmental functions, services and responsibilities of both cities into one unified city government.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas, that:

Section 1. Election Order, Election Date and Purpose of Election.

A Special Election shall be held on the 2nd day of May, 2026 for the purpose of considering a ballot proposition on whether the City of Shoreacres, Texas, shall be consolidated with and known as the City of La Porte, Texas, pursuant to chapter 61 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended. The election shall be held between the hours of seven o'clock a.m. (7:00 a.m.) and seven o'clock p.m. (7:00 p.m.) at 601 Shore Acres Boulevard, Shoreacres, Texas 77571.

Section 2. Voting System.

Voting on the date of the Election, and early voting therefore, shall be by the use of a lawfully approved voting system. The preparation of the voting equipment to be used in connection with such voting system and the official ballots for the Election shall conform to the Texas Election Code, as amended, so as to permit the eligible voters of the City of Shoreacres to vote on a Ballot Proposition on whether the City 1 shall be consolidated with the City 2, Texas. Said ballots shall have printed therein such provisions, markings, and language as may be required by law and the Proposition shall be set forth on said ballots in substantially the following form and language:

**SPECIAL ELECTION
City of Shoreacres, Texas
May 2, 2026**

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Proposition # 1:

FOR the consolidation of the City of Shoreacres, Texas and the City of City of La Porte, Texas into a single general-law municipality to be known as the City of La Porte, Texas

AGAINST the consolidation of the City of Shoreacres and the City of La Porte, Texas into a single general-law municipality to be known as the City of La Porte, Texas.

Section 3. Election Precincts; Polling Place.

The City of Shoreacres hereby designates one (1) Election Day polling location for the voters of the City of Shoreacres. The Election Day polling place and election officials shall be as follows:

Polling Place

601 Shore Acres Boulevard
Shoreacres, Texas 77571

Officials

Wes Bell, *Election Judge*

The Election Judge may appoint such other clerks as needed to serve and assist in the conduct of the election.

Section 4. Early Voting; Early Voting Polling Place.

Bernie Anderson is hereby appointed clerk for early voting; the appointment of a deputy clerk or clerks for early voting by the City Secretary shall be in accordance with Section 83.031 et seq. of the Texas Elections Code. Said clerks shall not permit anyone to vote early by personal appearance at any time when such office is not open to the public. The above-described place for early voting is also the clerk's mailing address to which ballot applications and ballots voted by mail may be sent. Applications by mail for a ballot to be voted by mail shall be received in accordance with the Texas Elections Code. The early voting clerk, in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Elections Code, shall maintain a roster listing each person who votes early by personal appearance and each person to whom a ballot to be voted by mail is sent. The roster shall be maintained in a form approved by the Secretary of State.

Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting machines shall be used for early voting personal appearance and for Election Day voting. Paper ballots shall be used for early voting by mail. The City Secretary, acting as chief elections officer, shall provide at least one ADA approve voting machine at a polling place as required by Section 61.012 of the Texas Elections Code. All expenditures necessary for the conduct of the election purchase of materials and the employment of all election officials are hereby authorized in accordance with the Texas Elections Code.

Early voting shall commence in City Hall at 601 Shore Acres Boulevard, Shoreacres, Texas 77571 on the 20th day of April, 2026, and shall close on the 28th day of April, 2026. During the lawful early voting by personal appearance period (April 20th through April 28th), the Early Voting Clerk shall keep such place for early voting open for early voting from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., on each day during early voting, except Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays; and shall keep such place for early voting open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for two (2) weekdays - N/A and N/A.

Section 5. Election Compliance.

This election shall be held in accordance with, and shall be governed by, the election laws of the State of Texas. In all City elections, the Mayor, City Secretary or City Council shall perform each act as is required to be performed, in connection with the holding and consummation of such election, and to give effect to the intent of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Voting Qualification; Voting Materials.

All registered, qualified voters of the City shall be permitted to vote at the election. In addition, the election materials enumerated in the Texas Election Code, as amended, shall be printed in English and Spanish for use at the polling places and for early voting for the Election.

Section 7. Compensation for Services.

The Election Judge shall be paid by the City of Shoreacres, Texas.

Section 8. Notices.

The City Secretary is hereby directed to give notice of the election by:

- (a) Publishing the notice of the election at least once, not more than thirty (30) days nor less than ten (10) days before the election in the official newspaper of the City,

or between April 2, 2026 and April 22, 2026.

- (b) Filing with the City Secretary, a copy of the notice of the election;
- (c) Posting a copy of the notice on the bulletin board used for posting notices of the meetings of the City Council at least twenty-one (21) days before the election, by the 10th day of April, 2026 ; and
- (d) Delivering notice of the election to the Election Judge not later than the 60th day before election day, or March 3, 2026.

The City Secretary shall file with the City Secretary a copy of the Publisher's Affidavit, which complies with the Texas Election Code, as amended, that the notice was published, with the name of the newspaper and the dates of publication.

Section 9. Severability Clause.

If any word, section, article, phrase, paragraph, sentence, clause, or portion of this ordinance or application thereto to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance; and the City Council hereby declares it would have passed such remaining portions of this ordinance despite such invalidity which remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage.

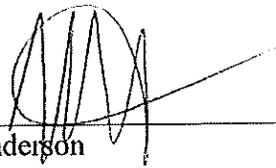
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Shoreacres, Texas, on this the 12th day of January, 2026.

(CITY SEAL)



Felicia Ramos, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bernie Anderson
City Secretary



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Christopher Gregg, Gregg & Gregg, P.C.
City Attorney of the City of Shoreacres, Texas