SUBJECT:
Public Hearing and First Reading of an Ordinance to change the qualifying period for candidacy for City Council for the City's February 6, 2018 regular election to the period beginning Monday, November 27, 2017 and ending on Friday, December 15, 2017.

SUMMARY:
City Council is asked to hold a Public Hearing and First Reading of an Ordinance changing the qualifying period for the February 6, 2018 election to the period beginning Monday, November 27, 2017 and ending on Friday, December 15, 2017, as the qualifying period pursuant to Section 13.4 of the Charter of the City ends on December 26, 2017, a City holiday, and schedule a Public Hearing and Second Reading for the June 14, 2017 Regular meeting.

BACKGROUND:
The qualification period in the Naples City Charter for candidates for the City’s February 6, 2018 regular election would end on Tuesday, December 26, 2017, a City holiday. According to federal law (42 USC § 1973FF–1) (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)), clerks must transmit a validly requested absentee ballot to an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter who requests one, at least 45 days prior to the election. Although this federal provision is not mandatory for local elections in non-Presidential election years, it should be honored. The Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office advises that the latest date to qualify so that the Supervisor can print and send ballots in conformity with UOCAVA is Friday, December 15, 2017. Moving the deadline for qualifying will not conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday. Section 100.3605(2), Florida Statutes provides that “the governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, change the dates for qualifying and for the election of members of the governing body of the municipality and provide for the orderly transition of office resulting from such date changes.”

According to Section 13.4 of the Naples City Charter, all candidates for city council shall have been a resident of the City of Naples for a period of 6 months prior to filing. The deadline for establishing legal residency is June 15, 2017.

Copies of all provisions of law referenced herein are attached for your convenience.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Hold a Public Hearing and approve an Ordinance on First Reading changing the qualifying period for candidacy for City Council for the City’s February 6, 2018 regular election to the period beginning Monday, November 27, 2017 and ending on Friday, December 15, 2017 and schedule a Public Hearing and Second Reading for the June 14, 2017 Regular meeting.