

AN ORDINANCE enacting provisions to revoke pension and benefit eligibility for any recalled County elected official and their direct non-merit reports, and for other purposes.

The Jackson County Charter establishes the ability of the public to recall elected officials when trust in their leadership has been broken

It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that no County employee removed through a recall process, or directly benefiting from proximity to such an individual, continues to receive taxpayer-funded retirement or benefit entitlements; and

The public trust must be preserved and those who are found unfit for office through a democratic process should not profit indefinitely from their breach of duty;

1. Revocation of Benefits for Recalled Officials.

Any elected official of Jackson County who is recalled from office by the voters shall immediately forfeit all future eligibility to participate in or receive benefits from any County-funded pension or retirement plan and shall be disqualified from receiving continuation of any County-funded healthcare or ancillary benefits.

2. Application to Appointed Staff.

If a recalled elected official is a member of the Executive Branch, this revocation shall extend to all individuals directly appointed by or reporting to the County Executive.

If a recalled elected official is a member of the County Legislature, this revocation shall extend to all individuals directly appointed by or reporting to the recalled legislator.

3. Exclusions.

This ordinance shall not apply retroactively to individuals recalled or removed from office prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

4. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions which can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

5. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

ONE-PAGER SUMMARY – ORDINANCE TO PROTECT TAXPAYER TRUST

Title: No Profits from Betrayal: Pension and Benefit Revocation for Recalled Officials

Purpose:

To ensure that no Jackson County official—nor their direct appointees—who is recalled from office due to a breach of public trust continues to receive taxpayer-funded pensions or benefits.

Key Provisions:

- **Immediate Disqualification:** Any County elected official who is successfully recalled by voters will lose eligibility for County-funded pensions and benefits.
- **Applies to Direct Reports:** All direct appointees or staff reporting to a recalled official—whether in the Executive or Legislative branches—will also lose eligibility.
- **Protects Taxpayer Resources:** Prevents those removed from office for misconduct or loss of public confidence from profiting long-term at taxpayer expense.
- **Forward-Looking:** Applies to all future recall efforts following the ordinance's adoption.

Why It Matters:

Taxpayer resources must serve the public—not those who have been rejected by the public. This ordinance defends integrity, deters unethical conduct, and ensures accountability at all levels of County government.

ADDITIONAL CLAUSES FOR ORDINANCE TEXT

6. Penalty Clause.

Any attempt to fraudulently retain or reinstate benefits in violation of this ordinance shall be considered a violation of County Code and subject to administrative and legal action, including repayment of improperly disbursed funds and disqualification from future County employment.

7. Grandfather Clause.

This ordinance shall not apply to individuals recalled or removed from office prior to the date of its adoption. All changes apply prospectively and shall not affect previously vested benefits under prior law.