

CHAPTER 2025-232

House Bill No. 4029

An act relating to the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Collier County; amending chapter 2014-240, Laws of Florida; deleting obsolete language; providing for the election of fire commissioners district-wide; requiring a referendum; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 4.02 of Article IV of section 4 of chapter 2014-240, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

ARTICLE IV

GOVERNING BOARD

Section 4.02 The office of each board member is designated as a seat on the board, distinguished from each of the other seats by a numeral. Each candidate must designate, at the time he or she qualifies, the seat on the board for which he or she is qualifying. The name of each candidate who qualifies shall be included on the ballot in a way that clearly indicates the seat for which he or she is a candidate. The candidate for each seat who receives the most votes shall be elected to the board. The cost of such elections shall be paid from funds of the district. The board of commissioners shall be comprised of initially be composed of eight members. The commissioners holding seats 2, 5, 6, and 7 shall have initial terms that expire in November 2016. Commissioners for seats 6 and 7 shall subsequently be elected to 2-year terms that expire in November 2018. The commissioners holding seats 1, 3, 4, and 8 shall have initial terms that expire in November 2018. Seats 6, 7, and 8 shall be eliminated in November 2018. The foregoing provisions establish, after the November 2018 election, a board having five commissioners with 4-year staggered terms. Beginning with the November 2028 election, seats 1 and 2 shall be elected as at-large seats for the East Naples Division. Seats 4 and 5 shall be elected as at-large seats for the Golden Gate Division. Seat 3 shall be elected as an at-large seats seat for the district as a whole.

Section 2. Referendum.—At a referendum to be held in conjunction with a general, special, or other election be held in Collier County no later than December 31, 2026, the ballot title and question shall be substantially as follows:

GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT'S BOARD CONVERSION TO FIRE COMMISSIONERS ELECTED DISTRICT-WIDE (AT LARGE)

Beginning with the November 2028 election, shall the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners members be elected district-wide (at large) rather than the current charter requirement that two board members are elected from the Golden Gate Division, two board members are elected from the East Naples Division, and one board member is elected district-wide (at large)?

() YES.

() NO.

Section 3. This act shall take effect only upon its approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors residing within the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District voting in a referendum to be held in conjunction with a general, special, or other election to be held in Collier County no later than December 31, 2026, except that section 2 and this section shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 6, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 6, 2025.