

BILL NO. _____

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-_____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
ARTICLE 112 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES,
ENTITLED “CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS”.**

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem enacted Ordinance 2015-1 on January 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2015-1 is codified at Article 112 of the City’s Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, § 112.01 of Article 112, requires elected officials, candidates, and their respective committees for the offices of City Council, Mayor, Treasurer, and City Controller to provide copies of their Campaign Finance Reports to the Bethlehem City Clerk’s Office commensurate with their filing with Northampton County, and for such reports to be forwarded to the City’s Information Services Bureau for posting on the City’s website; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §§ 3251(1)(i) and 3259(3) of the Pennsylvania Election Code, any statement or report required to be filed by any candidate, individual, or committee thereunder shall be filed with the appropriate County Board of Elections and made available for public inspection pursuant to the provisions of the Code; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with certain provisions of § 1104 of the Pennsylvania Ethics Standards and Financial Disclosure Act, § 112.02 of Article 112 requires candidates for the offices of City Council, Mayor, City Treasurer, and City Controller to provide to the Bethlehem City Clerk’s Office copies of all Statements of Financial Interests required to be filed, for forwarding to the City’s Information Services Bureau and posting on the City’s website; and

WHEREAS, §112.03 of Article 112 requires candidates for the offices of City Council, Mayor, City Treasurer, and City Controller who receive \$500 or more in contributions within one week of any election, to within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the same, to forward written notification to the Bethlehem City Clerk’s Office for forwarding to the City’s Information Services Bureau and posting on the City’s website; and

WHEREAS, §§ 3248, 3251 and 3259(3) of the Pennsylvania Election Code requires that relative to any municipal office, any candidate or political committee as defined therein receiving any contribution or pledge of Five Hundred (\$500) or more, or making an independent expenditure of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) or more after their final pre-election report has been submitted shall provide written notice of such contribution, pledge or expenditure to the appropriate County Board of Elections to be made available for public inspection;

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem City Council finds that the provisions of Pennsylvania’s Election Code relative to the filing and publication of campaign finance reports and contributions, pledges and expenditures received or made subsequent to the filing of final pre-

election reports, and the provisions of the Code relating to the publication of the same are necessary and appropriate to ensure transparency, accountability and public access to campaign finance information; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Ethics Standards and Financial Disclosure Act and the Pennsylvania Elections Code provide their own penalty provisions relating to the failure to adhere to filing requirements; and

WHEREAS, certain provisions of Article 112 are not reflective of City procedures and require updating to reflect those procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem City Council finds that the requirements of §§ 112.01 and 112.03 of Article 112 are unnecessarily duplicative of the requirements of Pennsylvania Election Code and do not further the public interest, do not efficiently and effectively utilize City resources, and do not serve any purpose not already served under Pennsylvania's Election Code; and

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of Article 112. Article 112 of the City of Bethlehem's Codified Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE 112
Campaign Finance Reports

Statements of Financial Interests

112.01 Filing and Posting of Statements of Financial Interests
112.02 Notification to Employees and Elected Officials
112.03 Campaign Finance Reports

112.01 FILING AND POSTING OF STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS

A copy of each Statement of Financial Interests required to be filed by candidates for the offices of City Council, Mayor, City Treasurer, and City Controller shall be forwarded to the Bethlehem City Clerk for posting on the Bethlehem City website not later than five (5) days after they are received.

112.02 NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

The City Clerk's Office shall routinely notify employees and elected City officials of their duty to file a Statement of Financial Interests in due course sufficiently in advance of the filing deadline.

112.03 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

Any candidate for public office within the City, whether or not a current elected official, shall be

solely responsible for ensuring the filing of all campaign finance reports required by law. The City shall bear no responsibility for notifying candidates of such duty. Pursuant to the requirements of the Election Code, all filed campaign finance reports are publicly available and may be accessed at the Northampton County Board of Elections website.

2. Repealer. All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby specifically repealed.

Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable and, if any provision thereof shall be declared unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as a legislative intent of the City of Bethlehem that this Ordinance would have been acted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid provision(s) not been included herein.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect as of February 2, 2026.

Sponsored by: /s/ _____

/s/ _____

Passed finally in Council this _____ day of _____, 2025.

/s/ _____
President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
City Clerk

This Ordinance is approved this _____ day of _____, 2025.

/s/ _____
Mayor