

ORDINANCE NO. O2026-021

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA, FIXING COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDING MUNICIPAL JUDGE FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 3 of the Yuma City Charter provides that the compensation for the Presiding Municipal Judge is to be set by ordinance of the City Council “and shall not be increased or diminished” after their election or during their term of office, pursuant to both the City Charter and the Arizona Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, Ordinance O2022-030, last established the compensation of the Presiding Municipal Judge whose term is to expire on December 31, 2026. Therefore, there is a need to establish compensation for the next term of that elected position.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Yuma as follows:

SECTION 1: The annual salary of Yuma’s Presiding Municipal Judge declared elected as of the General Election on November 3, 2026, shall be set at \$170,000.00 from and after January 1, 2027.

SECTION 2: In addition to the salary compensation set forth in Section 1, the Presiding Municipal Judge shall receive benefits of Social Security, the appropriate retirement plan as provided by state law, and Worker’s Compensation in accordance with state and federal law, for each year of the term to which the Judge is elected.

SECTION 3: The Presiding Municipal Judge shall be eligible for all fringe benefits received by full-time City employees including, but not limited to, eligibility for participation in the City's group health insurance, deferred compensation programs, and statutory sick leave benefits. The Presiding Municipal Judge shall also be eligible for General Leave accrual set forth in the City of Yuma Administrative Regulations at a pay period accrual rate, annual accrual amount, and maximum accrual equal to a five-year, full-time City employee (Tier 2) or actual time in service as Yuma’s Presiding Municipal Judge, whichever is greater.

SECTION 4: Upon the Presiding Municipal Judge's non-retention by the voters, retirement, or separation from employment, the balance of the Municipal Judge's accrued, unused General Leave will be paid to the Presiding Municipal Judge at the hourly rate at the time of separation of service as set forth in the City of Yuma Administrative Regulations.

SECTION 5: Upon the Presiding Municipal Judge's non-retention by the voters, retirement, or separation from employment, a percentage of the Presiding Municipal Judge's accrued, unused sick leave balance will be paid to the Presiding Municipal Judge at the time of separation of service as set forth in the City of Yuma Administrative Regulations equal to a five-year, full-time City employee (Tier 2) or actual time in service as Yuma’s Presiding Municipal Judge, whichever is greater.

SECTION 6: This ordinance shall supersede Ordinance 02022-030.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls
Mayor

ATTESTED:

Janet L. Pierson
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Richard W. Files
City Attorney