

ORDINANCE NO.143-2025(COTW), *First  
Reading*

By Council President Cuda and  
Councilmembers Larson and Posch

An Ordinance calling an election to be held September 9, 2025 upon the question of the removal of the Mayor from office; and declaring the necessity that this legislation be effective immediately as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio have reserved unto themselves the right to recall and remove the Mayor from office through Article IV, Section 11 of the City Charter, by the filing of a recall petition bearing the signatures of at least 25 percent of the number of electors that voted in the most recent mayoral election; and

WHEREAS, a petition setting forth the basis for such a recall and containing 4,424 signatures was filed with the Clerk of Council on June 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections attested on June 25, 2025, that the Board had examined the part-petitions comprising the petition and determined there were 279 valid part-petitions with 3,845 valid signatures; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of Council certified the same, and the sufficiency of the number of signatures, which exceeded the number required by the Charter, to this Council at the next regular Council meeting, held on June 30, 2025, and furnished the Mayor with electronic/digital and physical copies of said certification on that same day; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor had five (5) days after being furnished a copy of the certification to tender a written resignation to the Clerk of Council and forego an election upon the question of his removal; and

WHEREAS, the five (5) day period, calculated in accordance with Section 101.03 of the Cleveland Heights Codified Ordinances, has elapsed, and the Clerk of Council has not received a written resignation from the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, this Council, under Article IV, Section 11 of the City Charter must now call an election upon the question of the recall and removal of the Mayor.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby calls for an election, and authorizes and directs the submission to the electors of Cleveland Heights, Ohio at the next primary election scheduled for September 9, 2025, the following question: "Shall Kahlil Seren be removed from the office of Mayor by recall?" with provision on the ballot for voting affirmatively or negatively on such question. The question shall be presented on the ballot in English and in Spanish and the ballot shall indicate that a majority affirmative vote shall be required for passage, to-wit.

**City of Cleveland Heights  
Mayoral Recall Election**

**A majority affirmative vote is required for passage.**

Shall Kahlil Seren be removed from the office of Mayor by recall?

|  |                                           |
|--|-------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>For the recall of Kahlil Seren</b>     |
|  | <b>Against the recall of Kahlil Seren</b> |

Rev. 6-27-2025

**Ciudad de Cleveland Heights  
Elección de Destitución de Alcalde**

**Se requiere un voto afirmativo por mayoría para su aprobación.**

¿Deberá cesarse a Kahlil Seren del cargo de Alcalde por destitución?

|  |                                                    |
|--|----------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>A favor de la destitución de Kahlil Seren</b>   |
|  | <b>En contra de la destitución de Kahlil Seren</b> |

Rev. el 27-6-2025

**SECTION 2.** The Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to certify the action of this Council in passing this Ordinance to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

**SECTION 3.** This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

**SECTION 4.** Notice of the passage of this Ordinance shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights or by posting the full text of this Resolution to the City of Cleveland Heights website, and as otherwise required by law.

**SECTION 5.** It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective as an emergency measure for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to timely comply with the

ORDINANCE NO. 143-2025(COTW)

Charter requirement to call an election upon the question of whether to recall and remove the mayor from office, given that sufficient elector signatures were obtained on the recall petition. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Ordinance shall take immediate effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.



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TONY CUDA  
President of Council



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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

PASSED: July 7, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 07/08/2025 Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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KAHLIL SEREN  
Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 143-2025(COTW)

**Clerk of Council Certification**

I, Addie Balester, Clerk of Council for the City of Cleveland Heights, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of Ordinance No. 143-2025 as adopted by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights on July 7, 2025.



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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council