

**GULF COUNTY
STATE OF FLORIDA**

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 02

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA;
WHEREBY IMPLEMENTING LEGAL AUTHORITY TO IMOBILIZE,
IMPOUND AND FINE ANY AND ALL IMPROPERLY OR UNLAWFULLY
OPERATED AND OR PARKED/POSITIONED GOLF CARTS OR
VEHICLES IN GULF COUNTY AND TITLED AND COMMONLY
REFERRED TO AS “GULF COUNTY GOLF CART ORDINANCE”;
HEREINAFTER PROVIDING FOR RESTRICTION OF OPERATION OF
GOLF CARTS AND IMPROPERLY PARKED IN DESIGNATED ZONES IN
GULF COUNTY; AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTY FOR VIOLATION;
AUTHORITY TO IMMOBILIZE GOLF CARTS; PROVIDING FOR
REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE
FROM CONSIDERATION AT PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING FOR
EMERGENCY PROVISION AND CLASSIFICATION FOR WAIVING
STATUTORY NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR ITS IMMEDIATE
ADOPTION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners have recognized the need for enforcement and regulations on the parking of golf carts within coastal zones of Gulf County to protect the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute 125.01 the County shall have the power to carry on county government inclusive of the power to adopt its own rules that which are not inconsistent with general or special law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute 125.01 the County shall reserve the powers to adopt ordinances necessary for the exercise of its powers and perform acts which are in the common interest of the people of Gulf County and exercise all powers and privileges not specifically prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Constitution Article VIII Section 1(f) the County shall have such power of self-government as is provided by general or special law and this Commission may enact, in a manner prescribed by general law, county ordinances not inconsistent with general or special law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County, Florida (hereinafter “Commissioners”), found and determined at its regular meeting of March 31, 2026 that Gulf County (hereinafter “County”) shall advertise an emergency ordinance to be introduced, publicly read and conduct a hearing on April 28, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners duly authorized, motioned and properly voted to advertise and introduce an ordinance notice permitted by Florida Statute for the consideration and adopt this ordinance following public discussions, community involvement and the input and continuing contributions of various county officials; and

WHEREAS, the County further recognizes its responsibility to preserve the health, safety of both residents and visitors to Gulf County while promoting and protecting the coastal zones of Gulf County for safe operation and parking of golf carts while maintaining compliance and strict adherence to Florida Statute 316.212; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Purpose.

This ordinance establishes reasonable regulations for the operation and parking of golf carts within the coastal zones defined herein to ensure safe pedestrian and vehicular operation and access within Gulf County's coastal areas while maintaining compliance with Florida Statute 316.212 and all other applicable state statutes.

Section 2. Definitions

For purposes of this ordinance:

1. Coastal Zones for "Golf Carts" and improper "Vehicular Parking" - Gulf County - As previously defined and structured under enacted Gulf County Ordinance are those higher risk coastal areas created in Gulf County for purposes of previous ordinances and now this Golf Cart and Vehicular parking ordinance and defined as: the areas most vulnerable along the Gulf of America coastline including all of US Highway 98 along St. Joe Beach and all coastal roads including CR 30A out to the St. Joseph State Park and all roadways to the Gulf County Indian Pass boat ramp termination.
2. Restricted Parking Areas –
 - a. any and all parking of golf carts is strictly prohibited on any and all right of ways both landward and seaward of US Highway 98 along St. Joe Beach corridor from the county line and CR 386 adjacent to Bay County line to the terminus at the City and County line of jurisdiction adjacent to Pine Street in St. Joe Beach
 - b. any and all parking of golf carts within 50 foot radius in all directions of a stop sign if deemed obstructing line of sight for vehicular drivers on the road. Golf Carts found in violation of this parking restriction shall also be permitted to be repositioned from current location to a location deemed safe from the stop sign until such time it is reclaimed and released to owner.

- c. any and all parking of golf carts or vehicles within 200 feet of any Gulf County no parking signage
 - d. Commercial rentals of golf carts for staging and/or parking in county parks is strictly prohibited. Residential and visitor operators of golf carts in county parks are permitted to visit county park with golf carts for duration of their use and enjoyment but may not illegally park their golf cart and leave unattended for any and all overnight or extended stay beyond their personal use of the Gulf County park.
3. Immobilize a golf cart – Gulf County parking enforcement technique that shall permit the installation of a metal wheel clamp/strap device onto the golf cart wheel to immobilize it and prevent it from being driven away until the proper fine is paid and thereafter a scheduled removal of the strap/clamp has been arranged.

Section 3. Enforcement and Penalties.

Gulf County Commission is authorized to enforce this ordinance through the Gulf County Sheriff's Department and may also follow the established procedures and schedule of violations and penalties set forth below and also may be assessed by county code enforcement officials through its established Special Magistrate hearing procedure and in accordance with Florida Statute 125.69:

1. Immobilization of Golf Cart: Violations shall be enforced through the Gulf County Sheriff's office and all golf carts found in violation of this ordinance shall permit a strap/clamp to be installed on the improperly parked or operated golf cart until such time the fine is paid and full and the removal and return to operation has been properly scheduled with the Gulf County Sheriff's office..
2. Ticketing or tagging of improperly parked golf carts: all improperly parked golf carts shall be subject to the fines defined herein. Tagging and or ticketing shall be administered through the Gulf County Administration and enforced and enacted through the Gulf County Sherrieff Department.
3. Penalties: Golf Cart parking violations of this ordinance shall include fines as follows:
 - i. First violation: \$100.00 fine
 - ii. Second violation: \$250.00
 - iii. Third violation: \$500.00
 - iv. Violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties in addition to the loss of use of the golf cart until such time the fine is paid and boot is removed.
 - v. Each violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

- vi. Continued operation and parking in violation of this ordinance for a third offense constitutes a public nuisance and shall be subject to impoundment of the vehicles and required hearing and enforcement in Gulf County. (Golf Cart commercial rental businesses may request exemption from Gulf County Administration for repeated offenses of third party private renters not complying with local ordinance and multiple offenses not transferring to the commercial rental agent).

Section 4. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5. Conflicts.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, except to the extent of any conflicts with any conflicting state general or special law including Florida Statute 316.212 and which provisions shall prevail over any parts of this ordinance which are inconsistent, either in whole or in part.

Section 6. Modification.

It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance may be modified as a result of considerations that may arise during public hearings. Such modifications shall be incorporated into the final version of the Ordinance adopted by the Board and filed by the Clerk to the Board.

Section 7. Severability.

If any provisions or portion of this Ordinance is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Following the introduction, reading and discussion, the foregoing Ordinance was offered by Commissioner PRIDGEON, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCROAN and, being put to vote requiring a majority approval for adoption, the vote as follows:

Commissioner Quinn YES

Commissioner McCroan YES

Commissioner Pridgeon YES

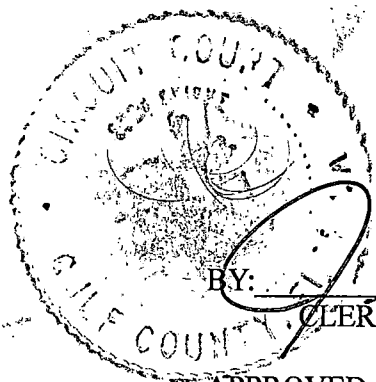
Commissioner Husband YES

Commissioner McLemore YES

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28th day of April, 2026

ATTEST: J. MATTHEW TERRY
CLERK OF COURTS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GULF COUNTY



BY: _____
CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

By _____
Jeremy T.M. Novak, Gulf County Attorney

BY: _____
CHAIRMAN SANDY QUINN