

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 45 - 2026

May 20, 2026

AN ORDINANCE

Amends Chapter 19, Civil Service Board, of the Codified Ordinances, titled "Rules of the City of Allentown Civil Service Board Governing the Appointment and Promotion of Police Officers and Firefighters" as follows:

Part II: Rules Governing Appointment of Police Officers Pursuant to the Competitive Examination Process, Rule I, Applications and Qualifications, Section 4, Automatic Eligibility Disqualifications (repealed language shown by strikethrough **only**):

The Board shall not examine an applicant or, after examination, shall not place an applicant upon the eligibility list or certify the applicant for employment if it determines that one or more of the following disqualifications applies to the applicant:

* * * *

d) ~~Failed to register with the Selective Service System.~~

Part V: Rules Governing Appointment of Fire Fighters, Rule I, Applications and Qualifications, Section 4, Automatic Eligibility Disqualifications (repealed language shown by strikethrough **only**):

The Board shall not examine an applicant or, after examination, shall not place an applicant upon the eligibility list or certify the applicant for employment if it determines that one or more of the following disqualifications applies to the applicant:

* * * *

d) ~~Failed to register with the Selective Service System.~~

LEGISLATIVE TEMPLATE

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Civil Service Board

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

The proposed Bill approves the City of Allentown Police and Fire Civil Service Board's repeal of its Rules that automatically disqualify an applicant for police officer or firefighter from examination for or selection from an eligibility list if the applicant has failed to register with the Selective Service System.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
 - **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
 - **How does this Bill related to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities**

The Bill modernizes the Board's Rules and harmonizes the Rules with both Pennsylvania law and recently enacted Federal law.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
 - **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

N/A

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

N/A

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

_____ 2026

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

The City of Allentown Police and Fire Civil Service Board is charged with oversight and ensuring fairness in the hiring and promotional processes for the City of Allentown Police Department and Fire Department. The Board wishes to repeal the provisions of its Rules that automatically disqualify an applicant for police officer or firefighter from examination for or selection from an eligibility list if the applicant has failed to register with the Selective Service System. Female police officer and fire fighter applicants are not required to register for the Selective Service System. Thus, the Rule that mandates automatic disqualification of an applicant for police officer or firefighter from examination for or selection from an eligibility list if the applicant has failed to register with the Selective Service System directly conflicts with Part I, Rule I of the Board's Rules, which expressly adopts a policy of granting equal employment opportunities to all qualified persons without regard to gender. Further, the provision that an applicant for police officer or firefighter is automatically disqualified for failing to

register with the Selective Service System is not mandated by Pennsylvania law. Additionally, Federal Law, commonly known as the National Defense Administration Act for FY 2026, enacted on December 18, 2025, now mandates automatic registration for the Selective Service System for individual men, thereby removing the responsibility to register for the Selective Service System from individuals. As a result, the proposed changes to the Board's Rules do not conflict with Pennsylvania law and serve to modernize and harmonize the Rules with recently enacted Federal law.