



Special Election for Proposed Citizen-Initiated Charter Amendment – “Fair Water Amendment”

Rebecca Huerta
City Secretary



Fair Water Amendment

Charter Amendment

Texas Local Government Code § 9.004

The governing body shall place a proposed charter amendment on the ballot if a petition signed by at least five percent of the city's registered voters, or 20,000, whichever is smaller, is submitted.



Petition Verification

- June 15: Petitioners submitted 7,648 pages with 12,788 names
- Pages were numbered and scanned and number of signatures counted.
- Texas Election Code § 277
 - 5% of all City registered voters (182,171) required to be valid: 9,109
 - Allows statistical sampling of not less than 25% of submitted signatures: 3,197

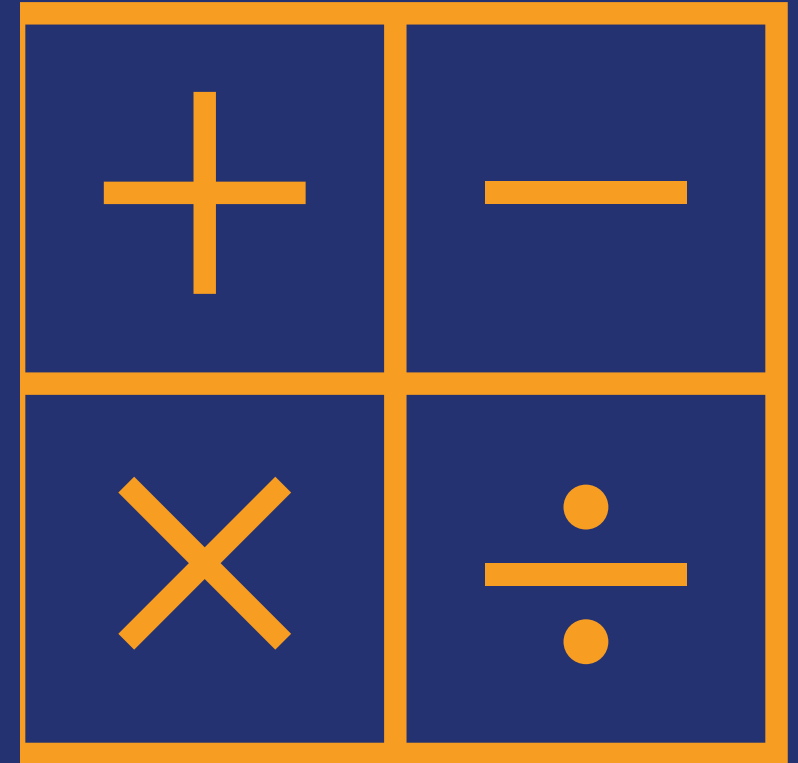


Fair Water Amendment

Petition Verification

Statistical Sampling

- The selection of a subset of individuals from a population to estimate characteristics of the whole population.
- Saves time and money by verifying a manageable subset rather than the entire population.



Petition Verification

- Contracted with Dr. Tom Sager, UT Professor of Statistics and Data Sciences
- Provided a list of page numbers and names to verify
- July 20: City Secretary received a statistician's report showing that the petition meets the minimum requirement of 9,109 valid signatures to be placed on the November 3, 2026 ballot.



Ballot Language

SB 506 (89th Leg., RS, 2025) – Added Election Code § 273.101

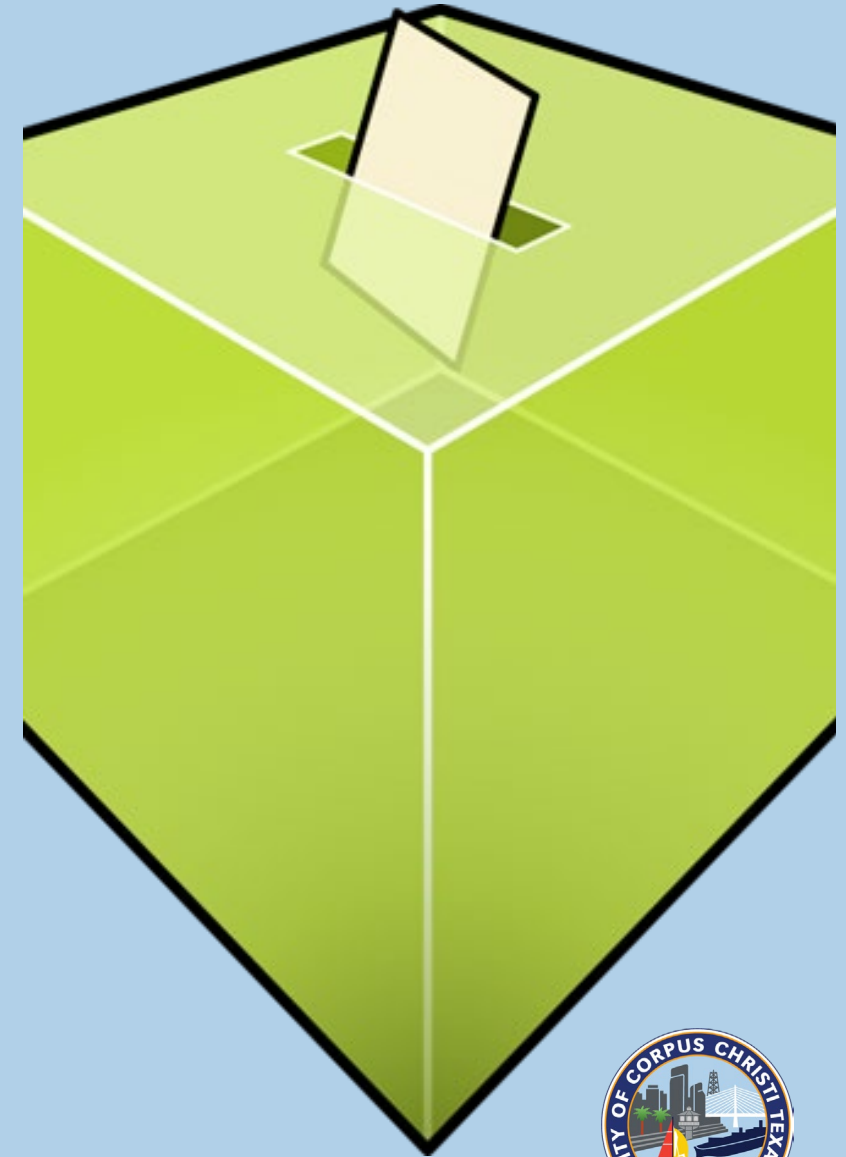
- Allows a registered voter eligible to vote in the election, or an authorized representative of a home-rule city, to initiate a review of ballot proposition language proposing a city charter amendment.
- Texas Secretary of State (TxSOS) reviews the proposition language to determine whether it is “misleading, inaccurate, or prejudicial” (Sec. 273.101(b)).



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Ballot Language

- Deadline - Not later than the 7th day after the date on which the home-rule city orders the ballot proposition (Sec. 273.101(a)).
- TxSOS advised cities that ballot language could be submitted before the election is ordered.



Ballot Language

- City secretary is among the authorized city representatives who may submit ballot language, and this was done on June 17.
- TxSOS approved the petitioners' proposed ballot language on June 22. The approved ballot language was incorporated into the ordinance.
- Monday, August 17 is the statutory deadline to order an election



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KUDOS

- **Assistant City Secretary Stephanie Box** for leading the team verifying the petition
- **IT department** for creating a registered voters database that helped with verification.





Thank you!