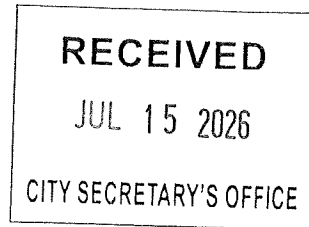


**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE
COUNCIL ACTION REQUEST**

TO: Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary

FROM: Council Member Carolyn Vaughn, At-Large
Council Member Kaylynn Paxson, Dist. 4
Council Member Gil Hernandez, Dist. 5



COPIES TO: Mayor & Council
Peter Zanoni, City Manager
Miles Risley, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Ordinance placing Charter Amendments on the November 3, 2026 General Election

ACTION REQUEST:

Per Council Policy 16.d., we are requesting that the following item be placed on the next available City Council agenda for discussion and possible action:

Ordinance placing City Charter amendments to the ballot for the November 3, 2026, election to:

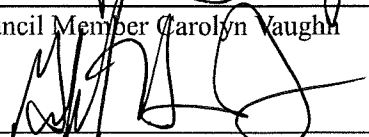
- (1) increase city council terms to four years,
- (2) staggering council terms,
- (3) increase term limits,
- (4) creating council member at-large places 1, 2, and 3,
- (5) requiring at-large council member elections to be decided by majority vote,
- (6) requiring elections for unexpired terms more than 12 months,
- (7) increase city council members' salary to the equivalent of federal minimum wage for full-time employees and the mayor's salary to 25% above city council members' salary,
- (8) increase the number of registered voters required for a petition to initiate the removal process,
- (9) increase the required vote for removal of city council member to two-thirds of the council members holding office, and
- (10) authorizing a two-cent property tax for streets and roadway infrastructure



Council Member Carolyn Vaughn



Council Member Kaylynn Paxson



Council Member Gil Hernandez

1. PROPOSITION BALLOT LANGUAGE

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI CHARTER AMENDMENT TO INCREASE CITY COUNCIL TERMS TO FOUR YEARS, STAGGERING COUNCIL TERMS, INCREASING TERM LIMITS, CREATING COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE PLACES 1, 2, AND 3, REQUIRING ELECTIONS TO BE DECIDED BY MAJORITY VOTE, AND REQUIRING ELECTIONS FOR UNEXPIRED TERMS MORE THAN 12 MONTHS

FOR _____
AGAINST _____

Amending the City Charter to increase Council Members' term to four years, staggering At-Large Council Members and mayor with single district council members, increasing term limits to three (3) consecutive four-year terms, establishing At-Large Council Member Place No. 1, At-Large Council Member Place No. 2, At-Large Council Member Place No. 3, and per Texas Constitution, requiring elections to be decided by majority vote and requiring special election to fill an unexpired term more than 12 months.

Related Charter Amendment Language

Adoption of PROPOSITION ____ would amend the City Charter, Article II, Section 1, Section 3, Section 12, and Section 13 as follows:

Sec 1 – Membership and Term

- (a) The City Council shall consist of ~~eight council members and a mayor~~ the mayor, at-large council member place no. 1, at-large council member place no. 2, at-large council member place no. 3, and five (5) council members elected from single-member districts. ~~The~~ Five ~~five~~ council members shall be elected by majority vote from single member districts, each single district council member being a resident of his or her respective district and each district having as near as practical the same population. ~~;~~ ~~three council members shall be elected at large by plurality vote with winners required to gain at least twelve percent of the total votes cast for all candidates for all at-large council member positions; and the~~ The ~~mayor, at-large council member place no. 1, at-large council member place no. 2, and, at-large council member place no. 3~~ shall be elected at large by majority vote. The city council shall, by ordinance, equalize the single-member districts as required by law; provided, however, no such ordinance shall be enacted less than ninety days before a regular election.
- (b) The mayor and members of the city council ~~shall be elected for terms of two years and~~ shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. ~~The regular election shall be held on the November uniform election date of even-numbered years as authorized by state law; provided that, a transition election shall be held on the second Saturday in May, 2011, for terms expiring upon the final canvass of the elections in November 2012.~~ Beginning with the

regular municipal election held in November 2028, the Mayor and At-Large Council Member Places Nos. 1, 2, and 3 shall be elected for four-year terms and the Council Members elected from single-member districts shall serve two-year terms. Beginning with the regular municipal election in November 2030, Council Members elected from single-member districts shall serve four-year terms. Thereafter, elections shall continue in alternating two-year cycles so that the Mayor and At-Large Council Members are elected in one cycle, and the single-member district Council Members are elected in the next cycle. The terms of all persons elected before the 2028 regular municipal election shall continue for the terms for which they were elected and shall not be extended or shortened by this amendment.

~~(c) All Council Members shall take office at the first Council meeting following canvassing of the election returns or, if a runoff election is required, at the first Council meeting following canvassing of the runoff election.~~

~~(d) No person shall serve more than four two-year terms consecutively as a council member, or four two-year terms consecutively as mayor, or six two-year terms consecutively in any combination of such offices. A person who has reached the limitation on terms provided in this section shall not be eligible for election or appointment to the city council until three consecutive terms of office for the council have expired.~~

(c) No person shall serve more than three (3) consecutive four-year terms as a member of the City Council, whether such service is as Mayor, an At-Large Council Member, a single-member district Council Member, or any combination of those offices. A person who has reached the consecutive term limitation provided in this section shall not be eligible for election or appointment to the City Council until at least one full four-year council term has elapsed following the end of that person's consecutive service. Service in an unexpired term of one-half or more of a full four-year term shall constitute one full term for purposes of the consecutive term limitation.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), a person appointed or elected to serve less than one-half of an unexpired four-year term may thereafter serve three (3) consecutive full four-year terms, provided the person's total consecutive service does not exceed fourteen (14) years.

(e) The Mayor and each Council member elected or appointed to four-year terms are subject to the automatic resignation provisions of Article XI, Section 11 and Article XVI, Section 65 of the Texas Constitution, as amended.

Sec. 3. Runoff elections.

(a) If no candidate for mayor receives a majority of all votes cast for such office at any regular or special election, there shall be held a run-off election at which the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the regular or special election shall stand for election.

- (b) If no candidate for city council from a given single member district receives a majority of all votes cast for such office at any regular or special election, there shall be held a run-off election at which the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the regular or special election shall stand for election.
- (c) If no candidate for at-large council member place no. 1, at-large council member place no. 2, or at-large council member place no. 3 receives a majority of all votes cast for such office at any regular or special election, there shall be held a run-off election at which the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the regular or special election shall stand for election.

~~If fewer than three candidates for at large city council positions receive a plurality of at least twelve percent each of the total votes cast for all at large city council candidates, there shall be held a run-off election at which:~~

- ~~(1) If no candidate received at least twelve percent of the total votes cast for all candidates for the at large positions in the regular or special election, the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall stand for election;~~
- ~~(2) If only one candidate received at least twelve percent of the total votes cast for all candidates for at large positions in the regular or special election, the next three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall stand for election;~~
~~or~~
- ~~(3) If two candidates received at least twelve percent of the total votes cast for all candidates for at large positions in the regular or special election, the next two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall stand for election. The winners in any such run-off election for at large positions shall be determined by a plurality vote.~~

- (d) The run-off election shall be held in accordance with state law.

Sec. 12. - Vacancy in office of mayor.

- (a) ~~In the event of death, resignation, permanent disability, forfeiture of office, recall or impeachment of the mayor, or if~~ If for any reason a vacancy shall exist in the office of mayor and twelve (12) months or less remain in the unexpired term, the council member elected at large who received the highest number of votes in the last regular election shall immediately become the mayor, provided that such council member shall not be at that time the subject of any recall petition on file with the city secretary. ~~notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event more than one year remains until the next regular city council election or the council member designated to become mayor is the subject of a recall petition on file with the city secretary, a special election shall be called by the then remaining council members to fill the vacancy in the office of mayor, and if there then are no remaining council members such special election shall be forthwith called by the county judge of Nueces County, Texas.~~
- (b) Any person who becomes mayor as provided above herein shall have all the duties and powers of the mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term of the mayor,

unless sooner removed as provided in this Charter. In the event a council member becomes mayor, the office of the council member shall become vacant, and such vacancy shall be filled as provided in this article.

- (c) If a vacancy occurs in the office of the mayor for any reason, and more than twelve (12) months remain in the unexpired term, or the council member designated to become mayor is the subject of a recall petition on file with the city secretary, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the qualified voters at a special election called for such purpose. The City Council shall order such special election to be held within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the date the vacancy occurs.

Sec. 13. - Vacancies in office of council member.

- (a) ~~In the event of death, resignation, permanent disability, forfeiture of office, recall, or impeachment, of any council member, or if~~ If for any reason a vacancy shall exist in the office of any council member, with the exception of the mayor, and twelve (12) months or less remain in the unexpired term or the council member was elected to a two-year term, the then remaining members of the council by majority vote shall forthwith fill such vacancy by appointment of a new council member having the qualifications for such vacancy or vacancies as established by law, and the appointed council member shall hold office until the next regular city election and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified, unless sooner removed as provided in this Charter; provided, however, that in the event a majority of the council members be recalled at the same recall election, then the vacancies in the offices theretofore held by them shall be filled by a special election to be held within sixty days after such vacancies occur. Such election shall be forthwith called by the then remaining council members, and if there be no remaining council members, such election shall be forthwith called by the county judge of Nueces County, Texas.

- (b) If for any reason a vacancy occurs in the office of a council member elected to a four-year term, with the exception of the mayor, and more than twelve (12) months remain in the unexpired term, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the qualified voters at a special election called for such purpose. The City Council shall order such special election to be held within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the date the vacancy occurs.

2. PROPOSITION BALLOT LANGUAGE

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI CHARTER AMENDMENT TO AMEND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' SALARY TO THE EQUIVALENT OF FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AND MAYOR'S SALARY TO 125% OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' SALARY

FOR _____
AGAINST _____

Amending the City Charter to increase City Council members' salaries to the equivalent of an annual salary equal to the product of two thousand eighty (2,080) hours multiplied by the federal minimum hourly wage and the mayor's salary to 125% of Council members' annual salary

Related Charter Amendment Language

Adoption of PROPOSITION ____ would amend the City Charter, Article II, Section 7, as follows:

Sec. 7. – Compensation

- (a) Each member of the city council, with the exception of the mayor, shall receive an annual salary equal to the product of two thousand eighty (2,080) hours multiplied by the federal minimum hourly wage established under 29 U.S.C. § 206 (Fair Labor Standards Act) that is in effect on January 1 of each calendar year. ~~as compensation the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) during each year of service on the council, such sum~~ Such salary is to be paid in equal installments throughout the year.
- (b) The Mayor shall receive an annual salary equal to one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the annual salary authorized for a council member under subsection (a). ~~as compensation the sum of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) during each year of service on the council, such sum~~ Such salary is to be paid in equal installments throughout the year.
- (c) The provisions of this section shall become effective immediately after the election and qualification for office of the first city council following its adoption.
- (d) Any adjustment to compensation resulting from a change in the federal minimum hourly wage shall become effective on January 1 of the next calendar year and shall apply prospectively without further action by the City Council.
- (e) The compensation established by this section is not exclusive.

3. PROPOSITION BALLOT LANGUAGE

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI CHARTER AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE COUNCIL MEMBER REMOVAL PROCESS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS REQUIRED FOR A PETITION TO INITIATE THE REMOVAL PROCESS AND TO INCREASE THE REQUIRED VOTE FOR REMOVAL TO TWO-THIRDS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS HOLDING OFFICE

FOR _____
AGAINST _____

Amending the City Charter to increase the number of registered voters required to initiate a removal proceeding to equal to or more than one-half of one percent of the total vote received in the most recent election in the territory from which the office for which the removal action is sought, and to require two-thirds of all council members holding office, with the exception of the challenged member.

Related Charter Amendment Language

Adoption of PROPOSITION __ would amend the City Charter, Article II, Section 11 (b) and Section 11(e) as follows:

- (b) A removal action by the council may be instituted on its own initiative, or shall be instituted upon petition ~~by five or more registered voters~~ signed by a number of registered voters equal to or greater than one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the total vote cast in the most recent election in the territory from which the office was elected, and any final decision to remove a member shall be by ~~the majority~~ two-thirds (2/3) vote of all council members holding office, with the exception of the challenged member. The council may provide by ordinance for the referral of any disciplinary matter involving a council member to the ethics commission for recommendation. The challenged member shall have the right to written articles of impeachment, an opportunity to be heard, to be represented by counsel, to summon witnesses who shall be required to give testimony, and to reasonable advance notice of the hearing. The burden of proof shall be on those bringing the charges. The hearing shall be open to the public, and the conclusions and findings of the council shall be final. If the member is removed, a complete statement of the reasons there for shall be filed with the city secretary. The council shall additionally have the authority to reprimand or suspend a member for a period of not more than thirty days if removal is not warranted.
- (e) A member who is removed from office, whether pursuant to this section, by recall or other legal proceeding, or who resigns after any such proceedings have been initiated, shall not be eligible to be appointed to or run as a candidate for city office for ~~two~~ four years from the date of removal, recall or resignation.

4. PROPOSITION BALLOT LANGUAGE

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI CHARTER AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING A TWO-CENT PROPERTY TAX FOR STREETS AND ROADWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

FOR _____
AGAINST _____

Amending the City Charter to authorize a two-cent ad valorem tax increase for Tax Year 2027, dedicated exclusively to the construction, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of public streets and related roadway infrastructure.

Related Charter Amendment Language

Adoption of PROPOSITION ____ would amend the City Charter, Article VIII, Taxation and Bonds, Section 1, to add subsection (g) as follows:

(g) If authorized by the Texas Tax Code, the City Council is authorized to adopt an ad valorem tax rate for Tax Year 2027 that exceeds the tax rate adopted for the preceding tax year by two cents (\$0.02) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of taxable value. The revenues attributable to the two-cent (\$0.02) increase authorized by this section shall be dedicated and used exclusively for the construction, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of public streets and related roadway infrastructure within the City.