



Charter Review Process

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MAY 14, 2019

Background

November 4, 2016 - Charter Amendment Election



- Scope of the review

- 1) Review of *Article II, City Council*, with a focus on lengthening elected terms of office.
- 2) Options for funding reconstruction and maintenance of residential streets.
- 3) “Housekeeping items” proposed by staff.

- Charter Review Committee was appointed in Sept. 2015 (Council members made nominations; Mayor appointed; Mayor appointed the chair).
- Met 8 times – October 2015 to June 2016 (Nine months)
- Committee recommended 11 propositions – presented final report on June 14, 2016
 - Lengthening Council terms was discussed but a recommendation was not made.
- Council placed 9 propositions on the ballot – all passed.

Background

2008-09 Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee

- February 2008 (Council Retreat) - Scope of Review: Re- evaluate charter and review possible compensation; create internal auditor position.
- Target election date - April 2009 General Election.
- March 2008 – Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee was formed by Mayor and appointed by Council
- April 7, 2008 to February 23, 2009 - Met for approximately 10 months
- March 24, 2009 - Final report to the City Council
 - * Secretary of State (SOS) – City could not place charter amendments on April 2009 ballot
 - * Next available election date was November 2009.
 - * Committee made presentation to outgoing Council since they were appointed by them.
 - * Council expressed desire to consider current recommendations.



Background

2008-09 Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee

- 4/04/09 - City Council Elections (runoff in District 3)
- 4/21/09 - Outgoing City Council endorses and amends the White committee's proposed amendments
- 5/09/09 - Runoff Election held
- 5/19/09 - New Council seated
- 11/09 to 12/09
 - New state law restricted City from holding general elections in April; required to select a uniform election date (May or November). (Deadline - Dec. 2010)
 - Plan for charter amendment election next year; ask for presentation from committee
- 4/27/10 - Committee presented final report (five propositions; two recommendations)
- 5/18/10 - Motion of direction to have charter amendment election in November 2010
- 8/24/10 - Ordinance calling for election
- 11/02/10 - Charter Amendment Election
 - Six propositions placed on ballot – All passed

Summary

- City charters cannot be amended more often than every two years (exactly 730 days). (Tx Constitution)
- First available election date – November 2019
- Based on most recent historical data, a 10- to 12-month period for committee review would be reasonable (completion within the appointing Council's term of office).
- Pros and cons of uniform election dates in 2019 or 2020.
 - November 2019 – Constitutional election
 - May 2019 – Local elections (e.g. school districts)
 - May 2020 – Local elections (primary elections in March)
 - November 2020 – Presidential election



Discussion Questions

- 1) Who would lead the review?
- 2) Proposal process? Council Action or Create a Committee.
- 3) Process to appoint committee members? (if desired)
- 4) Areas to be considered? – Scope of the review
- 5) Target election date?





Questions?