



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 34

Agenda Date: August 8, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Clerk

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Debbie Racca-Sittre

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ordering the City Charter Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance will order the City Charter Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Municipal Elections are conducted in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, Texas Election Code, Local Government Code, and all other applicable law.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On November 14, 2023, Mayor Nirenberg issued a memo forming a Charter Review Commission (CRC) in accordance with Ordinance Number 2014-09-11-0674. Mayor Nirenberg appointed the following individuals to serve on the CRC: Bonnie Prosser Elder (Co-Chair), David Zammiello (Co-Chair), Elva Pai Adams, Joshua Baugh, Luisa Casso, Frank Garza, Mike Frisbie, Pat Frost, Martha Martinez-Flores, Naomi Miller, Bobby Perez, Shelley Potter, Dwayne Robinson, Rogelio Saenz, and Maria Salazar.

The Commission was charged with reviewing the following areas of the City Charter and make recommendations:

- Ethics Officer and Other Ethics Revisions
- City Council Member Compensation and Term Length
- City Manager Tenure and Compensation
- Council Districts and Redistricting
- Language Modernization
- Section 11 of the City Charter, Meetings of the City Council

On June 5, 2024, the Commission presented their final recommendations to the City Council. On August 1, 2024, Council discussed possible Charter provisions to be placed on the November Charter ballot based on the CRC's recommendations and Council discussion from June 5.

City Council may order a Charter Election with propositions based on the following:

Proposition A. Adds a definition of “conflicts of interest”, requires sufficient funding to the Ethics Review Board so it may perform all its assigned duties, and authorizes the Ethics Review Board to accept or decline complaints that have been resolved by an entity other than the Ethics Review Board.

Proposition B. Revises the language of the Charter to account for outdated and superseded provisions.

Proposition C. Grants City Council the authority to set the full terms of the City Manager's employment including tenure and compensation.

Proposition D. Allows City employees to participate in local political activity consistent with State and Federal law while protecting employees against political retribution and maintaining a general prohibition on participation in local political activity for the city leadership team.

Proposition E. Sets the compensation for City Council members and the Mayor at \$70,200 and \$87,800 annually with annual future adjustments to correlate to the HUD Income Limits for San Antonio. (This change would go into effect for City Council members elected in May 2025.)

Proposition F. Extends the terms of all elected members of City Council, including the Mayor, from two (2) years to four (4) years; changing the term limits from four (4) full terms to two (2) full terms and keeping the terms concurrent.

The calendar leading up to the Tuesday, November 5, 2024, City Charter Election is:

- Monday, September 16, 2024 to Monday, December 16, 2024 – Mandatory Hours of Operation for the Office of the City Clerk.
- Saturday, October 5, 2024, 5:00 p.m. - Deadline to Register with Bexar County Elections Department to Vote in the November City Charter Election
- Thursday, October 24, 2024 - First day of Early Voting by personal appearance
- Friday, October 25, 2024, 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for Bexar County Elections Department to receive an Application for Vote by Mail Ballot
- Friday, November 1, 2024 - Last day of Early Voting by personal appearance
- Tuesday, November 5, 2024 - Uniform Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ISSUE:

This ordinance will order the City Charter Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose not to order a Charter Election causing the proposed amendments to the City Charter to not be placed on the ballot for voters to consider.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If a City Charter Election is ordered, a contract will be executed with the Bexar County Elections Department for Election Services for the City Charter Election on Uniform Election Day Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Other costs of the Charter Review Commission including outreach and advertising of meeting notices, meeting security, printing, interpretation and translation services have already been paid from the Municipal Elections FY2024 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Office of the City Clerk, in coordination with the Office of the City Attorney requests that the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Antonio officially order the City Charter Election for Tuesday, November 5, 2024.