

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Meeting**

Municipal Plaza Building
114 W. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg
Dr. Sukh Kaur, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Marina Alderete Gavito, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Marc Whyte, Dist. 10

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

9:00 AM

City Council Chambers

The City Council convened a special meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 9:09 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 10 – Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte

ABSENT: 1 - Alderete Gavito

ITEMS

1. Ordinance canvassing the official election results of the November 5, 2024, Charter Election.
[Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre provided the Official Canvassing Report to City Council. She provided a timeline for the Charter Election Process which began on November 14, 2023 when Mayor Nirenberg reconstituted the Charter Review Commission (CRC) which met eleven times and considered the charges set by the Mayor. She reported that as a result of extensive community

engagement, an additional amendment was approved by City Council that would allow City employees to participate in campaign activities during municipal elections. Racca-Sittre added that the City Council ordered the November 5, 2024 Charter Election on August 8, 2024.

Racca-Sittre reported that 1,295,920 Registered Voters cast 762,772 ballots for 58.86% voter turnout for the City of San Antonio. Racca-Sittre explained that in addition to votes “For” or “Against,” there were overvotes that represented more than one mark on a paper ballot, and undervotes that represented electronic and paper-voted ballots that were not marked.

Racca-Sittre provided the Proposition A - Ethics Review Board ballot language which was “Shall Article XIII, entitled Ethics Review Board, of the City Charter be amended to add a definition of “conflicts of interest”; require sufficient funding to the Ethics Review Board so it may perform all its assigned duties, and authorize the Ethics Review Board to accept or decline complaints that have been resolved by an entity other than the Ethics Review Board?” Racca-Sittre reported that 295,222 or 72% of the votes cast were “For” and 115,216 or 28% voted “Against”. Proposition A; there were no overvotes and 81,213 undervotes.

Racca-Sittre provided the Proposition B – Language Modernization ballot language which was “Shall the following sections of the City Charter be amended to revise or eliminate provisions which have been superseded by State Law and to update archaic language to current usage: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 51, 52, 53, 53a, 54, 55, 56, 58, 67, 68, Article V.A., 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, Article VIII, 112, 117, 119, 121, 122, 123, 123A, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, and 136?” Racca-Sittre reported that 272,058 or 68% of the votes cast were “For” and 126,543 or 32% voted “Against” Proposition B; there was one overvote and 93,049 undervotes.

Racca-Sittre provided the Proposition C – City Manager Tenure and Compensation ballot language which was “Shall the Charter of the City of San Antonio be amended to grant to City Council the authority to set the full terms of the City Manager’s employment including tenure and compensation?” Racca-Sittre reported that 229,596 or 54% of the votes cast were “For” and 192,383 or 46% voted “Against” Proposition C; there were no overvotes and 69,672 undervotes.

Racca-Sittre provided the Proposition D – City Employee Political Activity ballot language which was “Shall the Charter of the City of San Antonio be amended to allow 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?” Racca-Sittre reported that 264,183 or 68% of the votes cast were “For” and 155,350 or 37% voted “Against” Proposition D; there was one overvote and 72,117 undervotes.

Racca-Sittre provided the Proposition E – City Council Compensation ballot language which was “Shall the Charter of the City of San Antonio be amended to set and limit the compensation for City Council members and the Mayor at \$70,200 and \$87,800 annually with annual future adjustments to correlate to the United States Housing and Urban Development four-member

household median income for San Antonio, and authorize a Council member or the Mayor to decline any or all of the established compensation?” Racca-Sittre reported that 267,814 or 64% of the votes cast were “For” and 150,298 or 36% voted “Against” Proposition E; there were four overvotes and 73,535 undervotes.

Racca-Sittre provided the Proposition F – City Council Terms ballot language which was “Shall the Charter of the City of San Antonio be amended to extend the terms of all elected members of City Council, including the Mayor, from two (2) years to four (4) years and changing the term limits from four (4) full terms to two (2) full terms while keeping the terms concurrent?” Racca-Sittre reported that 225,552 or 53% of the votes cast were “For” and 197,479 or 47% voted “Against” Proposition F; there were four overvotes and 68,396 undervotes.

Racca-Sittre recommended that City Council Canvass the results of the November 5, 2024, City of San Antonio Charter Election in which all five Propositions were passed by the voters. Following the vote, the City Clerk pledged to post the Canvassing online, print revised City Charters, and provide the updated City Charter to the Texas Secretary of State as required by the Texas Local Government Code.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guillermo Vazquez local labor leader with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) spoke in support of the canvassing.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Nirenberg stated that he formed the CRC to evaluate and improve municipal government. He lauded the work of the CRC and noted that the language would be easier to read, City Council could attract and keep quality leadership, City employees could advocate for their leadership, and City Council compensation and term lengths would be sufficient to allow more people to serve. Mayor Nirenberg thanked the members of the CRC for their work, City leadership, the campaign team, and AFSCME.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda highlighted the importance of Proposition D and thanked the union and City employees for supporting the issue.

Councilmember Courage noted that San Antonio had a greater number of voters during this Charter Election than any other Municipal Election and he encouraged voters to come out next May for the General Election.

Councilmember Viagran thanked the voters, AFSCME, and staff for their work.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Canvass the November 5, 2024 City Charter Election Results. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Whyte
Absent: Alderete Gavito

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 9:22 a.m. to discuss the following:

- A.** Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development)
- B.** The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C.** Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D.** Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E.** Legal issues relating to emergency preparedness pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 10:05 a.m. and announced that no official action had been taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Approved

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor

Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk