



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: February 16, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Clerk

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Debbie Racca-Sittre

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

San Antonio Justice Charter Amendment Petition Certification

SUMMARY:

The City Clerk has completed the verification process of the San Antonio Justice Charter Amendment Petition submitted on January 10, 2023, and has determined the petition is sufficient pursuant to Section 9.004 of the Local Government Code.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On January 10, 2023, Ground Game Texas submitted a petition known as the San Antonio Justice Charter Amendment Petition. The language included at the top of the petition form is as follows: “A petition to amend the City Charter of San Antonio to adopt a justice policy that will reduce unnecessary arrests and save scarce public resources through a comprehensive set of reforms, including: ending enforcement of low-level marijuana possession; ending enforcement of abortion crimes; banning no-knock warrants; banning chokeholds; and using citations instead of arrests for low-level non-violent crimes.”

Upon submission of the petition pages, the Office of the City Clerk began the process of reviewing

petition signatures in accordance with Chapter 277.002 of Texas Election Code, which states that for a petition signature to be valid, a petition must contain:

- the signer's printed name,
- the signer's date of birth or voter registration number,
- the signer's residence address,
- the date of signing, and
- signature in the signers own handwriting.

The City Charter requires each signer of the petition to sign their name in ink or indelible pencil and requires the signature and statement of a circulator on each petition page.

The Office of the City Clerk utilized the Votec Elections Management and Compliance System at Bexar County Elections Office to verify the petition within the 20 business days required under the City Charter. Pursuant to Section 9.004 of the Texas Local Government Code, a total of 20,000 petition signatures from qualified electors of the City of San Antonio are required to be submitted to initiate a charter amendment election.

ISSUE:

The City Clerk has completed the verification process of the petition in accordance with requirements of the Texas Election Code and City Charter; and has determined the petition is sufficient pursuant to Section 9.004 of the Texas Local Government Code. Refer to the attached Certified Report.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Temporary staff were utilized to assist with the petition verification process at an estimated cost of \$19,000. Funding for the temporary staff is available in the FY 2023 Elections Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Clerk has fulfilled her ministerial duty to verify the petitions in accordance with applicable law and the petition is sufficient. The San Antonio Justice Charter Amendment must be placed on the ballot for the next election.