



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 20

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:

Ordering a City Charter Election to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance will order a Charter Election to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

The calendar leading up to the Saturday, May 6, 2023 Charter Election is:

- Thursday, April 6, 2023 5:00 p.m. - Deadline to Register with Bexar County to Vote in the May General Election
- Monday, April 24, 2023 - First day of Early Voting by personal appearance
- Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for Bexar County to receive an Application for Vote by Mail Ballot
- Friday, April 28, 2023 - Fiesta San Jacinto Holiday (polls closed)
- Tuesday, May 2, 2023 - Last day of Early Voting by personal appearance
- Saturday, May 6, 2023 - Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On January 10, 2023, Ground Game Texas submitted a petition known as the San Antonio Justice Charter 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.”

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. The Office of the City Clerk verified the petition with the previous agenda item.

ISSUE:

This ordinance will order a Charter Election to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The ordinance contracting with the Bexar County Elections Administrator for Election Services for the Saturday, May 6, 2023 will be presented to the Mayor and Council at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council has a ministerial duty to order a Charter Election and the San Antonio Justice Charter Amendment must be placed on the ballot for the next election.