



City of Dallas

Charter Review Process and Voter-Submitted Charter Amendment Petitions Update

**City Council Briefing
August 7, 2024**

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Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Process Overview
- Voter Petitions for Charter Amendments
- Remaining Action
- Next Steps



Background



- Charter Review Commission met bimonthly from September 2023 to April 2024 (15 total meetings).
- Chair Allen Vaught presented 30 recommendations to City Council on May 1, 2024.
- City Council process included submission of amendments for consideration and straw voting over three meetings (May 15, June 5, June 18).
- Final vote was initially scheduled for June 26; held until August 14.



City Council Deliberations



- May 15: Straw voting (Commission Recommendations)
 - Reviewed amendments classified by the Commission as technical or operational
 - Advanced all technical recommendations
 - Advanced one operational recommendation
 - Six operational recommendations did not advance



City Council Deliberations



- June 5: Straw voting (Commission Recommendations and Councilmember Submissions)
 - Advanced five policy recommendations
 - One policy recommendation failed to advance
 - Advanced 10 Councilmember-submitted recommendations
 - Two Councilmember-submitted recommendations failed to advance



City Council Deliberations



- June 18: Straw voting (Commission Recommendations and Councilmember Submissions)
 - Advanced no recommendations
 - Two recommendations failed to advance
 - Three recommendations were withdrawn by the submitters prior to a straw vote.
- Council salary discussions were held until June 26.





- June 26: Voting Agenda
 - A motion was made to hold the final vote until August 14.
 - Directed staff to provide a briefing on August 7.
 - Deadline of August 2 to submit more recommendations for August 7 straw-voting.
 - One additional submission was made.



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 1

Adding a Preamble to the City Charter

Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a preamble that declares the city to be an equitable democracy; highlights its diversity and resiliency; champions equity, community empowerment, and accessibility; recognizes indigenous groups who inhabited its land; acknowledges its history; and pledges to build a just and equitable city for all?

PROPOSITION NO. 2*

Increasing Salaries for the Mayor and Councilmember

Shall Chapter III, Section 4(a) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to increase the annual salary for the mayor to \$140,000 and the annual salaries for councilmembers to \$125,000 with salaries subject to a yearly adjustment equal to the year-over-year percentage increase in the local consumer price index, effective upon the swearing in of the mayor and councilmembers in June 2025?

***This item is scheduled for straw voting during the August 7 briefing.**



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 3

Extending City Councilmember Terms

Shall Chapter III, Section 1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to change the terms of city councilmembers from four two-year terms to two four-year terms to be phased in starting in June 2027?

PROPOSITION NO. 4

Providing the City Secretary and City Auditor with Employees

Shall Chapter IIIA, Section 2 and Chapter IX, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter, which requires the city council to provide assistants to the city secretary and city auditor, be amended to also require the city council to provide employees to the city secretary and city auditor?



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 5

Adding Eligibility Criteria for Serving on the Redistricting Commission

Shall Chapter IV, Section 5(b)(2) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes the redistricting commission, be amended by adding eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission?

PROPOSITION NO. 6

Eliminating the Requirement that Members of Boards and Commissions Created by Charter be Registered to Vote, Qualified Voters, or Qualified Taxpaying Citizens

Shall Chapter IV, Section 5; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XVI, Section 1; and Chapter XVII, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by eliminating the requirement that members of the redistricting commission, city plan commission, civil service board, and park and recreation board be registered to vote, qualified voters, or qualified taxpaying citizens?



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 7

Extending Deadline for Referendum Petition Signature Collection from 60 Days to 120 Days

Shall Chapter XVIII, Section 11(1) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes procedures for initiative and referendum of ordinances, be amended to extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect required signatures from 60 days to 120 days?

PROPOSITION NO. 8

Reducing Number of Signatures Required on a Petition to Initiate a Referendum

Shall Chapter XVIII, Section 11(2) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes procedures for initiative and referendum of ordinances, be amended to reduce the number of signatures required on a petition from 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas to five percent?



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 9

Allowing City Council to Replace City Board and Commission Members Before Completion of Board and Commission Terms

Shall Chapter XXIV, Section 17(b) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to allow city council's appointments to city boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to completion of a member's two-year term?

PROPOSITION NO. 10

Allowing the Mayor Pro Tem, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, or City Secretary to Call a City Council Meeting to Order When the Mayor is Absent

Shall Chapter III, Section 11 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to allow the mayor pro tem, deputy mayor pro tem, or city secretary to call a city council meeting to order when the mayor is absent from the meeting location and a quorum of the city council is present?



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 11

Requiring the Mayor to Assign Standing City Council Committees within 60 Days of Inauguration

Shall Chapter III, Section 13(b) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to require the mayor to assign standing city council committees within 60 days after the date of inauguration and if the mayor does not fulfill this obligation within 60 days, councilmembers will continue to serve on their previous standing committees, with a newly-elected councilmember serving in the place of the previous councilmember of the same district until the mayor appoints, removes, or reassigns members to and from the various standing council committees?

PROPOSITION NO. 12

Requiring the City Council to Confirm the Mayor's Appointments to, Reassignment of, and Removal from Standing City Council Committees

Shall Chapter III, Section 13 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to require city council to confirm the mayor's appointments to, reassignment of, and removal from standing city council committees?



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 13

Clarifying that Municipal Judges and Associate Municipal Judges Serve Terms Equal to the Terms of City Councilmembers

Shall Chapter VIII, Sections 4 and 6 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to clarify that the terms of municipal judges and associate municipal judges are equal to the length of terms for members of the city council, Places 1 through 14?

PROPOSITION NO. 14

Amending the Appointment Procedure and Qualifications of Associate Municipal Judges

Shall Chapter VIII, Section 6 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to clarify the terms of associate municipal judges and state that associate municipal judges are appointed by city council, receive assignments from the administrative judge or the administrative judge's designee, and must be residents of Dallas within four months of the date of appointment and practicing attorneys in good standing?



Ballot Propositions in DRAFT Ordinance



PROPOSITION NO. 15

Technical Amendments to Conform to State Law, City Code, and Actual Practices; to Correct Terms; and to Clarify Language

Shall Chapter III, Section 3; Chapter III, Section 4; Chapter III, Chapter 8(b); Chapter III, Section 13(a); Chapter III, Section 19; Chapter IV, Section 6(a); Chapter IV, Section 6(c)(2); Chapter IV, Section 13; Chapter XI, Section 1; Chapter XI, Section 3; Chapter XII, Section 4; Chapter XIII, Section 2(2); Chapter XIII, Section 9; Chapter XIV, Section 8; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XV, Section 4; Chapter XVI, Section 3(b)(1); Chapter XVI, Section 7; Chapter XVI, Section 10(a); Chapter XVI, Section 11(b); Chapter XVIII, Section 7; Chapter XVIII, Section 11(1); Chapter XVIII, Section 15; Chapter XIX, Section 7; Chapter XXII, Section 2; Chapter XXII, Section 3; Chapter XXII, Section 4(1); Chapter XXII, Section 10; and Chapter XXIV of the Dallas City Charter be amended to conform to state law, conform to the city code, match actual practices, correct terms, clarify language, and other technical amendments?



Voter Petitions for Charter Amendments



- CSO certified four voter petitions as valid using the statistical sampling method for verifying signatures as allowed by Texas Election Code Section 277.003.
 - Dallas HERO Project – 3 petitions
 - Dallas Freedom Act – 1 petition



Timeline



Action	Date	Source of Authority
Consider ordinances ordering November 5, 2024 special election on charter amendments	August 14, 2024	Only regularly scheduled agenda meeting in August prior to <u>August 19th deadline</u> to call election
Uniform Election Date	Tuesday, November 5, 2024	Texas Election Code, Sec. 41.001(a)(3)



Next Steps



- August 7
 - Staff Briefing on 2024 Charter Review Update
 - Councilmember Questions
 - Straw Voting on Eligible Items (Appendix D)
- August 14
 - Consider ordinances ordering November election.





City of Dallas

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Appendix A

DRAFT Ordinance



ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance ordering a special election to be held in the city of Dallas on November 4, 2024, on the question of adopting amendments to the Charter of the City of Dallas; adding a preamble to the city charter that declares the city to be an equitable democracy, highlights its diversity and resiliency, champions equity, community empowerment, and accessibility, recognizes indigenous groups who inhabited its land, acknowledges its history, and pledges to build a just and equitable city for all; increasing the annual salary of councilmembers to \$125,000; increasing the annual salary of the mayor to \$140,000; extending city council terms from two-year terms to four-year terms; clarifying that the length of terms for municipal judges and associate municipal judges are equal to the length of terms for members of the city council; clarifying the appointment process for associate municipal judges; allowing the mayor pro tem to call a council meeting to order once a quorum is present if the mayor is not in the designated meeting location, the deputy mayor pro tem to call a council meeting to order if both the mayor and mayor pro tem are not in the designated meeting location, and the city secretary to call the meeting to order if all three are not in the designated meeting location; require the mayor to assign standing city council committees within 60 days after the date of inauguration, and if the mayor fails to fulfill this obligation within 60 days, councilmembers will continue to serve on their previous standing committees, with a newly-elected councilmember serving in the place of the previous councilmember of the same district until the mayor appoints, removes, or reassigns members to and from the various standing city council committees; requiring the city council to confirm the mayor's appointments to standing city council committees; providing the city secretary with employees; eliminating the requirement that members of boards and commissions created by the city charter be registered to vote, qualified

voters, or qualified taxpaying citizens; adding eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission; extending the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 days to 120 days; reducing the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum from 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas to five percent; allowing city council's appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council before the completion of the appointee's term; striking charter provisions referencing required newspaper notifications; amending city council candidacy requirements to match the requirements in the Texas Election Code; amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code; delete the requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a city council candidates filed affidavit of residency; clarifying that the mayor and city council receive benefits as part of their compensation in addition to their annual salary; requiring that candidates for city council not be in arrears only in the payment of liabilities due the city that are related to holding office; allowing the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis; clarifying that reorganizations and reductions in force will be treated in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment; clarifying that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods; removing voter registration requirement for those who make an application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition; clarifying that it is the duty of the human resources department to recommend rules governing the evaluation of conduct and performance of city employees; allowing an alternate deadline when the date for performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday; making various technical amendments to conform to state law, conform to the city code, match actual practice, correct terms, and clarify language; prescribing the form and wording of the ballot propositions; designating polling places; providing that only resident qualified voters are entitled to vote; providing for the use of an electronic voting system for early voting by personal appearance and a computerized

voting system for voting on election day and for early voting by mail; providing for early voting locations; providing for an early voting ballot board to process early voting; providing for notice of the special election; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That a special election is ordered to be held in the city of Dallas on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the city several propositions on whether the Charter of the City of Dallas should be amended. The proposed amendments will only affect the sections listed below and will read as set forth below (the new portions being underlined, and the repealed portions being crossed through):

“PREAMBLE

We, the residents of the City of Dallas, declare that our city is an equitable democracy and that our diversity and differences are our strength. We acknowledge the history of our city and respect the cultures, languages, and perspectives of all who call Dallas home. We celebrate all those who have advocated for the advancement of our city in any capacity and celebrate their courage and resiliency.

We strive to be a city where the talents and contributions of every resident of Dallas are recognized and embraced. Further, we strive to champion equity, community empowerment, and accessibility for every resident of Dallas. We aspire to deliver a service-first governance model that reflects the values in which our city believes and works to make a reality for each resident.

We strive for a city in which residents have the opportunity to thrive and succeed with:

- (1) a safe, healthy, clean, and sustainable living environment;
- (2) a resilient and connected neighborhood supported by reliable and accessible infrastructure that is surrounded by a robust local economy;
- (3) an adaptive, affordable, and easily accessible transportation system that supports all neighborhoods within the City of Dallas;
- (4) vibrant and welcoming public spaces throughout the City of Dallas where all residents feel a sense of belonging;
- (5) resources necessary to proposer economically and build wealth;

- (6) safe and affordable housing for generations to come;
- (7) quality and trauma-informed child and youth educators, including early childhood and pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade education;
- (8) compassionate, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed health and mental health care; and
- (9) opportunities to participate in government decision-making, while having access to a communicative and transparent municipal government.

We recognize that the City of Dallas lies on the traditional territory formerly occupied by multiple indigenous groups, including the Caddo, Wichita, nomadic groups such as the Comanche and Kiowa, and ancestral tribes including the Arkikosa, Atakapa, Karankawa, and Tawakoni, and many others. We recognize these indigenous groups and original inhabitants and stewards of this land. The City of Dallas endeavors to honor their stewardship of the land by protecting the environment and all living things within it.

We acknowledge the grave injustices and atrocities that form part of our country's history, and our city's history, including the forced labor of enslaved Africans, colonialism that displaced indigenous peoples from their lands, the devaluing and underpaying of immigrant workers, and the discrimination, racial segregation, mass incarceration, and other forms of violence and systemic inequity that continue to be experienced by marginalized groups. Further, we acknowledge the role the City of Dallas uniquely played as a Southern city in the production of cotton and the resulting immense economic profit the City acquired because of it. We recognize these historical truths and their subsequent results which are embedded into our society as systemic inequities; these systemic inequities are found today within so many of our country's structures and institutions. We are ever mindful that intentional action is required to undo and prevent the wrongs of the past from worsening or continuing. It is imperative that we work collaboratively to enact institutions, laws, and procedures to promote justice and equity for all residents of Dallas.

The collective values set out in this preamble will guide the operation of the City of Dallas and shape the way the City carries out the duties, obligations, and authorities trusted upon it by residents and granted to it by the charter.

We, the people of Dallas, are united in our determination to build a just and equitable city for all. We recognize the efforts of those residents of Dallas, past and present, who fought for racial equity, social justice, accessibility, voting rights, and inclusivity and honor their contributions to make our city the place it is today. We extend our gratitude to the residents who have advocated, fought, struggled, and dreamed of a better life and a better city. Together, we work to make meaningful changes that honor their efforts as we move toward a better tomorrow for future generations.

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL

SEC. 1. COMPOSITION OF CITY COUNCIL.

Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, all powers conferred on the city shall be exercised by a city council to be composed of 15 members, nominated and elected in the manner

hereinafter provided unless otherwise provided by law. One member of the city council, Place 15, shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire city and 14 members by the qualified voters residing in a particular district, Places 1 through 14 respectively, as provided in Chapter IV of this Charter. Members of council, Places 1 through 14, shall each be elected for a term of two years and member of council, Place 15, shall be elected for a term of four years. The city council members so elected shall take office on the first Monday following the 30th calendar day after the final canvass of the general election, and they shall serve until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. [Note: This version of Section 1 is effective until the swearing in of city councilmembers in June 2027.]

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Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, all powers conferred on the city shall be exercised by a city council to be composed of 15 members, nominated and elected in the manner hereinafter provided unless otherwise provided by law. One member of the city council, Place 15, shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire city and 14 members by the qualified voters residing in a particular district, Places 1 through 14 respectively, as provided in Chapter IV of this Charter. Members of council, Places 1 through 15, shall each be elected for a term of four years. The city council members so elected shall take office on the first Monday following the 30th calendar day after the final canvass of the general election, and they shall serve until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. [Note: This version of Section 1 is effective upon until the swearing in of city councilmembers in June 2027.]

SEC. 3. COUNCIL QUALIFICATIONS.

Each member of the city council shall, in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by law, be at the date of election a qualified voter of the city, and shall not be in arrears in the payment of [~~any taxes or other~~] liabilities due the city related to holding office.

SEC. 3A. LIMITATION OF TERMS.

(a) A person who has served as a member of the city council other than Place 15 for four consecutive two-year terms shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, any place on the city council except Place 15 until at least one term has elapsed.

(b) A person who has served two consecutive terms as a member of the city council, Place 15, shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, Place 15 on the city council until at least one term for Place 15 has elapsed.

(c) A “term” as used in Subsection (a) shall include any period of service during a city council term when that period is in excess of one year, including a term from which the member resigned.

(d) For the purpose of limiting terms under Subsection (b), a term includes a period of time less than four years when the period of service by a mayor during a term is in excess of 731 days. [Note: This version of Section 3A is effective until the swearing in of city councilmembers in June 2027.]

SEC. 3A. LIMITATION OF TERMS.

(a) A person who has served as a member of the city council in Places 3 and 10 consecutively for two two-year terms and one four-year term, shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, any place on the city council except Place 15 until at least one term has elapsed.

(b) A person who has served as a member of the city council in Places 2, 11, 13, and 14 consecutively for three two-year terms and one four-year term, shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, any place on the city council except Place 15 until at least one term has elapsed.

(c) A person who has served as a member of the city council in Places 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 12 consecutively for four two-year terms, shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, any place on the city council except Place 15 until at least one term has elapsed.

(d) A person who has served as a member of the city council in Places 6 and 8 consecutively for one two-year term and two four-year terms, shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, any place on the city council except Place 15 until at least one term has elapsed.

(e) A person who has served two consecutive terms as a member of the city council, Place 15, shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, Place 15 on the city council until at least one term for Place 15 has elapsed.

(f) A “term” as used in Subsections (a) through (d) shall include any period of service during a city council term when that period is in excess of one year, including a term from which the member resigned.

(g) For the purpose of limiting terms under Subsection (e), a term includes a period of time less than four years when the period of service by a mayor during a term is in excess of 731 days. *[Note: This version of Section 3A is effective upon the swearing in of city councilmembers in June 2027 and until the swearing in of city councilmembers in June 2035.]*

SEC. 3A. LIMITATION OF TERMS.

(a) A person who has served as a member of the city council other than Place 15 for two consecutive four-year terms shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, any place on the city council except Place 15 until at least one term has elapsed.

(b) A person who has served two consecutive terms as a member of the city council, Place 15, shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for, or to serve in, Place 15 on the city council until at least one term for Place 15 has elapsed.

(c) A “term” as used in Subsection (a) shall include any period of service during a city council term when that period is in excess of one year, including a term from which the member resigned.

(d) For the purpose of limiting terms under Subsection (b), a term includes a period of time less than four years when the period of service by a mayor during a term is in excess of 731 days. [Note: This version of Section 3A is effective upon until the swearing in of city councilmembers in June 2035.]

SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) ~~[Effective October 1, 2001, e]Each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$60,000 [\$37,500] for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$80,000 [\$60,000] for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. [Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective until the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015].]~~

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015], each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$125,000 [\$60,000] for the following [each] year (prorated for a partial year[s]) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$140,000 [\$60,000] for the following [each] year (prorated for a partial year[s]) served as mayor on the city council. The annual salary for the mayor and members of the city council shall thereafter be subject to a yearly adjustment equal to the year-over-year percentage increase in the local consumer price index. [Note: This version of Subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015 and until the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014].]

~~[(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. [Note: This version of Subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014].]~~

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The salary [compensation] provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the salary [compensation] provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council. The mayor and each member of the city council may also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by state and federal law and adopted by city council through resolution or ordinance.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any salary [~~compensation~~] year, then the city council member's salary [~~compensation~~] provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which salary [~~compensation~~] reduction is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.

SEC. 8. OPEN MEETINGS; SPEAKERS.

(b) The city council shall adopt rules of procedure that provide reasonable opportunity for people [~~citizens~~] to be heard by the city council.

SEC. 11. ELECTION AND DUTIES OF THE MAYOR PRO TEM AND DEPUTY MAYOR PRO TEM.

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b):

(1) ~~t~~[F]he city council shall elect one of its members as mayor pro tem, who shall perform a specific duty of the mayor if the mayor is unable to discharge that specific duty, and who shall, during that time, be vested with all the powers belonging to the mayor to perform that specific duty; and[-]

(2) ~~t~~[F]he council shall also elect one of its members as deputy mayor pro tem to act if both the mayor and the mayor pro tem are unable to discharge a specific duty and to exercise the powers of the mayor to perform that specific duty.

(b) Once a quorum of the city council is present at a city council meeting at or after the posted time of the meeting, the mayor pro tem may call the meeting to order if the mayor is not in the designated meeting location, the deputy mayor pro tem may call the meeting to order if both the mayor and mayor pro tem are not in the designated meeting location, and the city secretary may call the meeting to order if the mayor, mayor pro tem, and deputy mayor pro tem are not in the designated meeting location. If the city secretary calls a city council meeting to order, the city council shall elect a councilmember to act as presiding officer of the meeting until the mayor, mayor pro tem, or deputy mayor pro tem arrives.

SEC. 13. POLICY-MAKING PROCEDURES AND OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) In the performance of the powers of government, it is the duty of the mayor and the city council to make suitable provision for the assurance of adequate and appropriate prior review and consideration of official actions to be taken by the city council, and to assure that a high performance level of services to the residents [~~citizens~~] is maintained, responsiveness to the people is provided, and accountability in municipal government is assured. To this end, the city council shall:

(1) adopt rules of procedure governing the conduct of city council meetings and the introduction, consideration, and method of review of actions to be considered by the city council, consistent with the city manager's authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager's operational agenda;

(2) create a standing finance committee of the city council charged with the responsibility for financial and audit oversight of the operations of city government;

(3) establish such additional standing committees and their duties as the city council determines is appropriate; and

(4) establish the process by which the committees shall conduct their business and review matters for city council consideration, consistent with the city manager's authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager's operational agenda.

(b) The mayor shall appoint the chair, vice chair, and all members [and chairs] of each [aH] city council committee[s], and it shall be the duty of each member of the city council to serve and to participate on each committee to which the member is appointed. Appointments to standing committees are subject to confirmation by the city council. The mayor shall have the power to remove and reassign members to and from the various city council committees. For standing committees, removals and reassignments must be confirmed by the city council. The mayor shall assign councilmembers to standing city council committees within 60 days after the date of inauguration. If the mayor fails to assign councilmembers to standing city council committees during that time, reelected councilmembers shall continue to serve on their previous standing committees, newly-elected councilmembers shall serve in the places on standing committees occupied by the previous councilmember of the same district, and each standing committee shall elect its own chair from among the members of the standing committee until the mayor appoints, removes, or reassigns members to and from the various council committees and a chair is appointed.

SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council[.] and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any person [citizen] upon request. ~~[A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city.]~~ The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.

CHAPTER IIIA. CITY SECRETARY

SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES

The city council shall provide the city secretary with such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary, and they shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant or employee may be discharged at any time by the city secretary. All powers and duties imposed on the city secretary may be exercised and performed by any assistant or employee under the city secretary's direction.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS

SEC. 3. GENERAL ELECTION.

No primary election shall be held for the selection of nominees to the city council unless specifically required by state law. General elections for the purpose of electing members of the city council shall be held on the first authorized election date after March 1 every fourth [~~of each odd-numbered~~] year. If state law does not restrict election dates, the city council shall by ordinance establish an election date in May every fourth [~~of odd-numbered~~] year[s]. The members elected shall compose the city council of the City of Dallas and shall serve for the terms provided in Chapter III of this Charter, or until their respective successors shall have been elected, qualified, and taken office.

SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must [~~be registered to vote and~~] meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. [~~A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission.~~] A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission. The following persons are not eligible to serve on the redistricting commission:

(A) a current member of the city council or the spouse of a current member of the city council or any family member within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity;

(B) a person or the spouse of a person who has been appointed to or elected to any elective federal, state, county, or city office during the three years before the appointment date;

(C) the campaign manager, treasurer, or staff member of any candidate for federal, state, county, or city elected office during the five years before the appointment date;

(D) a registered lobbyist or spouse of a lobbyist registered with the city, county, state, or federal government;

(E) a person or spouse of a person who works for the city or who works with or for any current member of the city council;

(F) a person or spouse of a person who has a contractual relationship with the city, has had a contractual relationship with the city within three years before the date of appointment, has a contractual relationship with any current member of the city council or the spouse of a current city council member; or has had a contractual relationship with any current member of the city council or the spouse of a current city council member within three years before the date of appointment (this paragraph does not apply to non-negotiated, form contracts for general city services or benefits if the city services or benefits are made available to the person or spouse on the same terms that they are made available to the general public); or

(G) a person who, in accordance with this charter, city ordinances, or written city policy, is ineligible for appointment to a city board or commission.

SEC. 6. CANDIDATE'S RESIDENCE.

(a) No person shall be eligible as a candidate for member of council, Place 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, unless the person is at the time a bona fide resident of District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, respectively, has resided continuously in Texas for 12 months, and has resided within the district in which the person is a candidate for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot [election]. Any person elected to a place representing a district must continuously reside in the district during that person's term of office. A candidate for member of council, Place 15, may be a resident of any portion of the city, must have resided continuously in the city for a period of at least six months and continuously in Texas for 12 months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot [election], and must continuously reside within the city during the person's term of office.

(b) If the district in which a person will have resided for at least six months prior to the date of an election will change because of the relocation of a district boundary, the person is eligible to become a candidate:

(1) for the new district assigned to the person's residence; or

(2) for the previous district of the person's residence if the person moves to a residence within the revised boundaries of that district prior to becoming a candidate for election.

(c) No person may appear on the official ballot as a candidate for a place on the city council unless[=

~~(4)] that person files with the city secretary a signed, sworn, and dated affidavit certifying compliance with the residency requirements of this section, except that a sworn application for a place on the ballot filed with the city secretary in accordance with the Texas Election Code will satisfy the requirements of this paragraph[= and~~

~~(2) the city secretary is reasonably able to verify the truth of the affidavit of residency].~~

~~SEC. 13. DISCLOSURE OF CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTIONS.~~

~~(a) The city secretary shall cause to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city's website, on at least two separate dates (20 and two days, respectively) prior to each election or recall election, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council that have been reported to the city secretary prior to the dates of publication.~~

~~(b) The city secretary shall also cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city's website, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council reported to the city secretary following any election or recall election.~~

~~(c) The city council shall provide sufficient resources to the city secretary to implement the mandate of this section.]~~

CHAPTER VIII. MUNICIPAL COURTS

SEC. 4. MUNICIPAL JUDGES; APPOINTMENT.

Each of the municipal courts of the City of Dallas shall be presided over by a judge or judges, each of whom shall be designated as municipal judge. Each judge shall be a practicing attorney of good standing. Biennially in May of each even-numbered year, the municipal judges shall be appointed by the council, which appointment shall designate the administrative judge. Each municipal judge shall hold office for a term that is equal to the length of terms for members of the city council, Places 1 through 14, [two years] from the date of appointment or until a successor is appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the council. In the event of any vacancy in the office of municipal judge by death, resignation, or otherwise, the city council shall appoint a qualified attorney to fill the unexpired term as municipal judge. The administrative judge designated by the city council shall be the administrative head of the judiciary of the city. As such, the administrative judge shall promulgate work rules concerning the administration of the court dockets, the times and places for holding court, equalizing of the case assignments, the vacation schedules, and other administrative details concerned with the judicial performance of the municipal courts, which rules shall be submitted to the city manager and city attorney for comment prior to adoption by the city council. Once adopted, the administrative judge shall be responsible to see that the rules are adhered to by all courts. The administrative judge shall make such reports as may be required by the city council.

SEC. 6. ASSOCIATE MUNICIPAL JUDGES.

In May of each fourth year, associate municipal judges shall be appointed by city council. Associate municipal judges will receive their assignment from the administrative judge or the administrative judge's designee. Each associate municipal judge shall be a practicing attorney of good standing. Each associate municipal judge must be a resident of the City of Dallas within four months of appointment. Each associate municipal judge shall hold office for a term that is equal to the length of terms for members of the city council, Places 1 through 14, from the date of appointment or until a successor is appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the council. In the event of any vacancy in the office of associate municipal judge by death, resignation, or

~~otherwise, the city council may appoint a qualified attorney to fill the unexpired term as an associate municipal judge. The associate municipal judge is considered a part-time judge and is called upon as needed. [If, for any cause, any of the municipal judges shall temporarily fail to act, then and in such case the council is hereby authorized to appoint some qualified attorney who shall act in the place and stead of such municipal judge, and who shall have powers and discharge all the duties of said office and shall receive the compensation therefor accruing while so acting. Such temporary judges shall be known as associate municipal judges. Associate municipal judges, during their appointments, shall not represent clients on matters pending in the municipal courts. The appointment of an associate municipal judge shall be by resolution of the city council, filed in the office of the city secretary. In the event of civil emergency, such appointment may be made by the mayor; provided, however, no compensation shall be paid to such judges so appointed unless confirmed by the city council.]~~

CHAPTER IX. CITY AUDITOR

SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES.

The council shall provide the city auditor with such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary, and those assistants and employees shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant or employee may be discharged at any time by the city auditor. All powers and duties imposed on the city auditor may be exercised and performed by any assistant and employee under the city auditor's direction.

CHAPTER XI. THE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RELATING THERETO

SEC. 1. ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The fiscal year of the city shall begin on the first day of October of each year and shall end with the 30th day of September next following. ~~By~~ On the 15th day of August of each year the city manager shall submit to the council a budget estimate of the revenue of the city and the expense of conducting the affairs thereof for the ensuing fiscal year. This estimate shall be compiled from information obtained from the several departments, divisions and offices of the city on uniform forms furnished by the city manager. It shall be in accordance with uniform accounting procedures with comparisons to the last two fiscal years and an estimate of the probable income for the period covered with the significant underlying assumptions.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

Upon receipt of the city manager's estimate, the council shall call a public hearing upon the submitted budget to be held before a committee of the council, or before the entire council sitting as a committee of the whole. Following the public hearings, the council shall pass on first reading the appropriation ordinance ~~[and shall cause it to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city with a separate schedule setting forth the items in the city manager's estimate that were omitted or changed by the council, if any. The council shall not pass the appropriation ordinance upon final reading until at least 10 days after its publication]~~. Upon passage of the appropriation ordinance by the council, it shall become immediately effective, and the funds appropriated therein become available on October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Following the final passage of the appropriation ordinance, the city council shall, by ordinance, levy the taxes for the current year.

CHAPTER XII. POLICE DEPARTMENT.

SEC. 4. DISCIPLINE OF POLICE; HEARING.

The chief of police shall have the right to discipline any of the officers or employees who may be under the chief's jurisdiction and control for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief of police. The chief of police may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of police shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.

CHAPTER XIII. FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

SEC. 2. DUTIES.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall:

(2) take all necessary measures to protect the city and the property of its residents [~~citizens~~] from destruction by fire or conflagration;

SEC. 9. DISCIPLINE OF FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; HEARING.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall have the right to discipline any officers or employees who may be under the chief's control and management for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief for the department. The chief of the fire-rescue department may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of the fire-rescue department shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and

equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.

CHAPTER XIV. FRANCHISES

SEC. 8. ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN.

The city shall have the power through eminent domain proceedings to acquire any public utility operating with or without a franchise and furnishing a public service to the residents [~~citizens~~] of Dallas. The procedure to be used in the acquisition of such property shall be that as set forth in Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code, as amended, and other applicable state law. In valuing the property, the measure of damages shall be the fair market value of the physical properties together with its franchise, if any, taken together as one system. This power shall be in addition to and cumulative of any other powers of acquisition granted to or reserved by the city in a franchise ordinance.

CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING

SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 residents [~~qualified voters~~] of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas[,] and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. Except for the qualified voter requirement, t[~~F~~]he members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The mayor [~~city council~~] shall designate [~~name~~] one [~~of the~~] member[s] as [~~to be the~~] chair, subject to confirmation by the city council [~~and one to be the vice chair~~].

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF ZONING COMMISSION.

The zoning commission shall:

(3) Act as an advisory body to the city council in relation to any changes in the boundaries of the various original districts and any changes in the zoning ordinances and regulations to be enforced therein. Such recommendation shall be made after [~~advertisement of and~~] a public hearing held thereon. [~~Notice of such public hearing shall be published at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the city at least 10 days prior to the date of said hearing, or as otherwise provided by state law or this charter.~~]

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL

SEC. 1. ORGANIZATION OF CIVIL SERVICE.

There is hereby created and established a civil service board to be composed of seven members who shall be residents [~~qualified taxpaying citizens~~] of the City of Dallas and a number of adjunct members equal to the number of members on the city council who shall have qualifications established by the city council. Biennially in September of each odd-numbered year,

the city council shall appoint the members and adjunct members to serve for two years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified, and the mayor shall designate one member as chair subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. The adjunct members shall not have voting privileges on matters to be determined by the civil service board but shall perform such duties as prescribed for them by this Charter. The members and adjunct members of the civil service board shall not hold any other position under the city, county, or state government. The city council may remove any member or adjunct member of the board. Any vacancies on the board must be filled by the city council for the unexpired term.

SEC. 3. CIVIL SERVICE DIVIDED INTO CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(b) The unclassified service shall include:

- (1) the directors of departments, assistant directors of departments, and other managerial personnel as designated by city council [~~rules of the board~~];
- (2) the municipal court clerk and the secretary of the civil service board; and
- (3) the labor class, which shall include all ordinary unskilled labor.

SEC. 6. BOARD TO PROVIDE FOR PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENT IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(a) The board shall provide for promotion to all positions in the classified service on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination or other appropriate evidences of competition and by records of merit, efficiency, character, conduct, and seniority.

(b) [~~The board shall also provide for incumbents of ranks or grades that have been eliminated by departmental reorganization:~~

- (1) ~~to be reassigned to other positions; and~~
- (2) ~~to receive no reduction in compensation for a period not to exceed two years.~~

(~~e~~) The board may, but is not required to, provide for reassignment in the case of:

- (1) reduction in force; [~~or~~]
- (2) removal or reduction for cause under standard civil service hearing and appeal procedures; or
- (3) departmental reorganization.

[~~(d) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply to a reassignment made under Subsection (c).~~]

SEC. 7. HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT [BOARD] TO RECOMMEND [ESTABLISH] RULES GOVERNING CONDUCT.

It shall be the duty of the human resources department [board, in the code of rules and regulations approved by the council,] to recommend personnel [establish] rules to be adopted by city council that govern [governing] evaluation of conduct and performance and require [requiring] remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.

SEC. 10. PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

(a) Appointments or promotions of city officers and employees in the classified and unclassified service shall not be deemed complete until a period of six months shall have elapsed. A probationer may be discharged, suspended or reduced within said period by the city manager, or the head of the department in which said probationer is employed without right of appeal. A probationary period served as a civilian employee will not satisfy the probationary period for a position in the sworn service with the police department or the fire-rescue department.

SEC. 11. EMPLOYEE ACTIONS AFTER PROBATION PERIOD.

(b) An officer or employee who has been disciplined by the head of any department under the city manager shall have 10 [five] days from receipt of notice of such action within which to demand, in writing, a hearing before the city manager. At the hearing, the city manager shall inquire into the cause of the disciplinary action and render a decision either affirming the action of the department head, setting aside the action of the department head, or directing the department head to enter a new order that the city manager determines is just and equitable. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the city manager is not limited in determining the extent of any discipline ordered. The decision of the city manager is final unless the disciplined officer or employee exercises any right to a public hearing before the trial board as provided by this Charter. This right of appeal does not apply to department directors, assistant department directors, and other managerial personnel designated by the city council, or to employees in departments exempted from the provisions applicable to the civil service.

CHAPTER XVII. PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(a) The city council shall appoint a number of residents of the City of Dallas [qualified voters of the city] equal to the number of members on the city council who shall constitute the park and recreation board of the city. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or by general laws of the State of Texas, except that a member is not required to be a qualified voter of the city, and shall serve without compensation.

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

SEC. 7. RESERVED. [PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES.]

~~The descriptive caption or title of each ordinance stating in summary the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty for violation of the ordinance, shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, unless otherwise provided by state law or this Charter, in which event the specific provisions shall be followed.]~~

SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five residents [~~registered voters~~] of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 120 [~~60~~] days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.

(2) The petition must contain the names of a number of qualified voters in the city equal to five [~~40~~] percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas as appears from the latest available county voter registration list.

(3) The petition must comply in form, content, and procedure with the provisions of Section 12, Chapter IV of this Charter.

SEC. 15. RESERVED. [~~PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCES BEFORE ELECTION.~~

~~Whenever any ordinance or proposition is required by the Charter to be submitted to the voters of the city at any election, the city secretary shall cause the ordinance or proposition to be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city and published once at least 10 days prior to election.]~~

CHAPTER XIX. ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES

SEC. 7. TAX LIEN; LIABILITY FOR TAXES.

A lien is hereby created on all property, personal and real, in favor of the City of Dallas, for all taxes, ad valorem, occupation or otherwise. Said lien shall exist from the earlier of 30 days after the tax is due or January 1 of [~~it~~] each year until the taxes are paid. Such lien shall be prior to all other claims, and no gift, sale, assignment or transfer of any kind, or judicial writ of any kind, can ever defeat such lien, but the tax assessor and collector may pursue such property, and whenever found may seize and sell enough thereof to satisfy such taxes.

In the event that personal property of the taxpayer is delivered into the actual or constructive possession of a receiver, trustee, or other person because of insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership or otherwise, [~~between January 1 and the date that~~] before the taxes are actually levied, then and in that event the amount of the taxes due shall be the same as was previously levied [~~for the prior year~~] for the same property and shall be secured by a lien in that amount.

All persons or corporations owning or holding personal property or real estate in the city ~~from the date the lien exists [on the first day of January of each year]~~ shall be liable for all municipal taxes levied thereon ~~[for such year]~~.

The personal property of all persons owing any taxes to the city is hereby made liable for all of said taxes, whether the same be due upon personal or real property, or upon both.

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS

SEC. 2. CONTRACT LETTING.

(a) All city contracts calling for or requiring the expenditure or payment of an amount required by state law to be competitively bid creating or imposing an obligation or liability of any nature or character upon the city, must first be submitted for competitive bids in accordance with this chapter. Such bids shall be based upon plans and specifications prepared for that purpose. ~~[Notice of the time and place when and where such contract shall be let shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Dallas once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the time set for letting such contract, the date of the first publication to be at least 14 days prior to the date set for letting said contract.]~~ Such contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder.

SEC. 3. RESERVED. ~~[PUBLIC INSPECTION OF BIDS.]~~

~~All bids submitted shall be sealed and shall be opened in a public place as directed by the city council, and in the presence of persons that may be designated by the city council, and shall remain open to public inspection for at least 48 hours before any award of said work is made to any competitive bidder. The provisions of this section regarding the retaining of bids 48 hours before awarding the work shall not apply to bids for the purchase of bonds.]~~

SEC. 4. EMERGENCY SPENDING, ETC.

The provisions regarding competitive bidding shall not apply in the following instances:

(1) In case of a public calamity where it becomes necessary to act at once to relieve the necessity of the residents ~~[citizens]~~ or to preserve the property of the city.

(2) Where it is necessary to preserve or protect the public health of the residents ~~[citizens]~~ of the city.

SEC. 10. RESIDENTS ~~[CITIZENS]~~ GIVEN PREFERENCE IN LETTING OF CONTRACTS.

Qualifications, prices and quality of material being equal, residents ~~[citizens]~~ and business firms of Dallas shall be given preference in the awarding of all contracts over which the city has jurisdiction, direct or indirect. This section shall not be construed so as to conflict with any provision of the Charter requiring competitive bidding.

CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 17. BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS.

(b) Upon initiation of the councilmember who occupies the city council place of the nominating councilmember, the city council may, by a majority vote, replace a board or commission member prior to completion of the member's two-year term. [A member of any commission or board appointed by the city council may be removed from office for any cause deemed by the city council sufficient for removal in the interest of the public, but only after a public hearing before the city council on charges publicly made, if demanded by such member within 10 days.]

SEC. 22. PERFORMANCE DEADLINES.

If the last day for performance of an act is a Saturday, Sunday, or national, state, or local holiday, the act is timely if performed on the next regular business day."

SECTION 2. That electronic and computerized voting systems must be used for voting at and on the date of the special election in compliance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended, and the vote must be upon an official ballot prepared in such a manner as will permit the voters to vote "For" or "Against" the propositions submitted, with the propositions to be expressed on the official ballot in a form substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Adding a Preamble to the City Charter

Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a preamble that declares the city to be an equitable democracy; highlights its diversity and resiliency; champions equity, community empowerment, and accessibility; recognizes indigenous groups who inhabited its land; acknowledges its history; and pledges to build a just and equitable city for all?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 1

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Increasing Salaries for the Mayor and Councilmember

Shall Chapter III, Section 4(a) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to increase the annual salary for the mayor to \$140,000 and the annual salaries for councilmembers to \$125,000, effective upon the swearing in of the mayor and councilmembers in June 2025?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 2

PROPOSITION NO. 3

Extending City Councilmember Terms

Shall Chapter III, Section 1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to change the terms of city councilmembers from four two-year terms to two four-year terms to be phased in starting in June 2027?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 3

PROPOSITION NO. 4

Providing the City Secretary and City Auditor with Employees

Shall Chapter IIIA, Section 2 and Chapter IX, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter, which requires the city council to provide assistants to the city secretary and city auditor, be amended to also require the city council to provide employees to the city secretary and city auditor?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 4

PROPOSITION NO. 5

Adding Eligibility Criteria for Serving on the Redistricting Commission

Shall Chapter IV, Section 5(b)(2) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes the redistricting commission, be amended by adding eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 5

PROPOSITION NO. 6

Eliminating the Requirement that Members of Boards and Commissions Created by Charter be Registered to Vote, Qualified Voters, or Qualified Taxpaying Citizens

Shall Chapter IV, Section 5; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XVI, Section 1; and Chapter XVII, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by eliminating the requirement that members of the redistricting commission, city plan commission, civil service board, and park and recreation board be registered to vote, qualified voters, or qualified taxpaying citizens?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 6

PROPOSITION NO. 7

Extending Deadline for Referendum Petition Signature Collection from 60 Days to 120 Days

Shall Chapter XVIII, Section 11(1) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes procedures for initiative and referendum of ordinances, be amended to extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect required signatures from 60 days to 120 days?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 7

PROPOSITION NO. 8

Reducing Number of Signatures Required on a Petition to Initiate a Referendum

Shall Chapter XVIII, Section 11(2) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes procedures for initiative and referendum of ordinances, be amended to reduce the number of signatures required on a petition from 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas to five percent?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 8

PROPOSITION NO. 9

Allowing City Council to Replace City Board and Commission Members Before Completion of Board and Commission Terms

Shall Chapter XXIV, Section 17(b) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to allow city council's appointments to city boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to completion of a member's two-year term?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 9

PROPOSITION NO. 10

Allowing the Mayor Pro Tem, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, or City Secretary to Call a City Council Meeting to Order When the Mayor is Absent

Shall Chapter III, Section 11 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to allow the mayor pro tem, deputy mayor pro tem, or city secretary to call a city council meeting to order when the mayor is absent from the meeting location and a quorum of the city council is present?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 10

PROPOSITION NO. 11

Requiring the Mayor to Assign Standing City Council Committees within 60 Days of Inauguration

Shall Chapter III, Section 13(b) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to require the mayor to assign standing city council committees within 60 days after the date of inauguration and if the mayor does not fulfill this obligation within 60 days, councilmembers will continue to serve on their previous standing committees, with a newly-elected councilmember serving in the place of the previous councilmember of the same district until the mayor appoints, removes, or reassigns members to and from the various standing council committees?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 11

PROPOSITION NO. 12

Requiring the City Council to Confirm the Mayor’s Appointments to, Reassignment of, and Removal from Standing City Council Committees

Shall Chapter III, Section 13 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to require city council to confirm the mayor’s appointments to, reassignment of, and removal from standing city council committees?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 12

PROPOSITION NO. 13

Clarifying that Municipal Judges and Associate Municipal Judges Serve Terms Equal to the Terms of City Councilmembers

Shall Chapter VIII, Sections 4 and 6 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to clarify that the terms of municipal judges and associate municipal judges are equal to the length of terms for members of the city council, Places 1 through 14?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 13

PROPOSITION NO. 14

Amending the Appointment Procedure and Qualifications of Associate Municipal Judges

Shall Chapter VIII, Section 6 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to clarify the terms of associate municipal judges and state that associate municipal judges are appointed by city council, receive assignments from the administrative judge or the administrative judge’s designee, and must be residents of Dallas within four months of the date of appointment and practicing attorneys in good standing?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 14

PROPOSITION NO. 15

Technical Amendments to Conform to State Law, City Code, and Actual Practices; to Correct Terms; and to Clarify Language

Shall Chapter III, Section 3; Chapter III, Section 4; Chapter III, Chapter 8(b); Chapter III, Section 13(a); Chapter III, Section 19; Chapter IV, Section 6(a); Chapter IV, Section 6(c)(2); Chapter IV, Section 13; Chapter XI, Section 1; Chapter XI, Section 3; Chapter XII, Section 4; Chapter XIII, Section 2(2); Chapter XIII, Section 9; Chapter XIV, Section 8; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XV, Section 4; Chapter XVI, Section 3(b)(1); Chapter XVI, Section 7; Chapter XVI, Section 10(a); Chapter XVI, Section 11(b); Chapter XVIII, Section 7; Chapter XVIII, Section 11(1); Chapter XVIII, Section 15; Chapter XIX, Section 7; Chapter XXII, Section 2; Chapter XXII, Section 3; Chapter XXII, Section 4(1); Chapter XXII, Section 10; and Chapter XXIV of the Dallas City Charter be amended to conform to state law, conform to the city code, match actual practices, correct terms, clarify language, and other technical amendments?

PROPOSICIÓN NO. 15

SECTION 3. That the election must be held and conducted in the manner provided by law governing the holding of city charter elections by home rule cities of the State of Texas. The official ballots, together with such other election materials as are required by the Texas Election Code, as amended, must be printed in both the English and Spanish languages and must contain such provisions, markings, and language as may be required by law.

SECTION 4. That the boundaries of the election precincts in which the election is to be held are defined by Ordinance No. 20231, as amended by Ordinance Nos. 20741, 21350, 21579, 22343, 22693, 23348, 24800, 25696, 27484, 28147, 28937, and 29375. Locations of the polling places in the election precincts are listed in the attached Exhibit A.

SECTION 5. That each voter must vote in the precinct in which the voter resides, and only resident qualified voters are entitled to vote.

SECTION 6. That a person qualified to vote and residing in the city of Dallas, but not within any precinct described in Ordinance No. 20231, as amended by Ordinance Nos. 20741, 21350, 21579, 22343, 22693, 23348, 24800, 25696, 27484, 28147, 28937, and 29375 may vote in the precinct nearest the person's residence, and for that purpose the person's residence will be

considered as part of that city election precinct. A person who has registered in a city election precinct, but whose residence is not in the city of Dallas, is not entitled to vote in the special election even though the person may own property subject to taxation in the city.

SECTION 7. That early voting by personal appearance will be by the use of an electronic voting system in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended. That tallying of early voting by mail will be by the use of a computerized voting system in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended. Early voting will be conducted at the following main locations and at the other locations during the dates and times designated in Exhibit B.

Dallas County Records Building
509 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75202

Collin County Elections Administration Office
2010 Redbud Boulevard, Suite 102
McKinney, Texas 75069

Denton County Elections Administration Office
701 Kimberly Drive
Denton, Texas 76208

SECTION 8. Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than close of business on Friday, October 25, 2024. That applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail must be mailed to:

Early Voting Clerk
Elections Department
2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 820
Dallas, Texas 75207

Collin County Elections Administration Office
2010 Redbud Boulevard, Suite 102
McKinney, Texas 75609

Denton County Elections Administration Office
P. O. Box 1720
Denton, Texas 76202

SECTION 9. That the early voting ballots will be processed by an early voting ballot board to be created in accordance with the Texas Election Code, as amended.

SECTION 10. That the mayor shall give notice of the special election by causing the notice to be published in a newspaper within the city and posted on the city's public meeting bulletin board in accordance with applicable state law governing notice of charter elections.

SECTION 11. That this ordinance will take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so ordained.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

TAMMY L. PALOMINO, City Attorney

By _____
Assistant City Attorney

Passed _____



Appendix B:

Charter Review Commission Final Report



Charter Review Commission



Recommended Amendments

to the Dallas City Charter

presented to the Dallas City Council

May 1, 2024

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2024 City of Dallas Charter Review Commission

Honorable Mayor Johnson and Members of the City Council:

As Chair of the 2024 Charter Review Commission, I am pleased to submit the enclosed report and recommendations to the Dallas City Council for consideration.

The Commission concluded its work on Thursday, April 11. On Wednesday, May 1, I will brief the City Council on the recommendations contained in the report and the consideration given to each amendment submitted. Staff from the Office of Government Affairs will join me to detail the administrative processes by which we operated.

The Commission met fifteen times from September 27, 2023 through April 11, 2024. As a means of informing our deliberations, we received data and heard from city staff and subject matter experts at the National Civic League and International City/County Management Association, as well as the chair of the 2014 Charter Review Commission, Representative Rafael Anchia. For over three months, the Commission solicited amendment proposals from city staff, city councilmembers, and members of the public, ultimately receiving and deliberating on 125 proposed amendments. We recommend the adoption of 30 of those proposals.

Since the Commission began its work, we have been committed to public engagement and outreach. In the interest of engaging with all stakeholders, the Commission took several steps to ensure that all interested parties were aware of the work being done and providing forums in which to give input. Most notably, Commissioners partnered with the City Council offices to host 20 townhalls throughout the City. Additionally, staff and commissioners presented at meetings for organizations like the League of Women Voters, Downtown Dallas Inc., and multiple regional chambers of commerce. On April 1, the Commission also hosted a bilingual telephone townhall, which allowed us to engage with hundreds of residents throughout the city and solicit feedback from them on our recommendations. With the input of residents and stakeholders, we are pleased to present recommendations that we believe will serve to improve our great city and its governance.

The enclosed report includes, among others, proposed recommendations related to:

1. Allowing city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.
2. Amending the petition process for ballot initiatives.
3. Allowing authorized residents to serve on the charter-created boards and commissions.
4. Changing the three-signature memorandum required for councilmembers to call a special-called meeting to a five-signature memorandum.
5. Broadening the city's notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.
6. Implementing a trigger clause so that ranked-choice voting is used in municipal elections if authorized by the state in future a future legislative session.
7. Increasing councilmember salaries to \$125,000 per year and the mayor's salary to \$140,000 per year, effective at the next election date and indexed to the Consumer Price Index going forward.



2024 City of Dallas Charter Review Commission

8. Requiring that the Office of Community Police Oversight director be appointed by and report directly to the city council.
9. Adding eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission.
10. Allowing city council's appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of a member's term.
11. Creation of a Community Bond Commission.
12. Adding the Office of the Inspector General to the Charter with the requirement that the inspector general be appointed by city council.

Perhaps some of the most notable items in our deliberation are the omissions from our recommendation. Public interest in the work of the Commission focused on the length of terms for city councilmembers; expansion of city council; moving the election date for municipal elections; restructuring of certain city departments; and more. Ultimately, the Commission decided against recommending changes to these charter provisions.

The Commission also deliberated several items that are not included in its recommendations but which we believe could serve Dallas as policies implemented or amended by City Council. Those include:

- Establishing an Office of the Ombudsman within the function of the City Auditor, or under another council appointed office, as deemed appropriate.
- Re-visiting and strengthening the ordinance establishing the Community Police Oversight Board to ensure it is as effective as possible.

The Commission acknowledges that these recommendations must now be considered in a larger context and with additional perspective, expertise, and insight by those who may be expected to implement or work under these amended provisions but respectfully requests that you give them each due consideration, as they reflect conscientious effort and thoughtful deliberations of your appointees to the Commission, as well as constructive input from the public.

On behalf of the Charter Review Commission, thank you for the opportunity to serve the City of Dallas.

Sincerely,

Allen Vaught
Chair, Charter Review Commission

Chronological List of Included Amendments by Commission by Agenda Date

Items in bold are policy issues
Items underlined are changes to city operations
Items in italics are technical corrections

January 11, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
A	XI § 1	<i>Require the city manager to submit an estimated budget BY August 15 instead of ON August 15. (22)</i>
B	IV § 6(a)	<i>Amend city council candidate residency requirements to match the requirements in the Election Code. (35)</i>
C	IV § 6(c)(2)	<i>Delete the requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a city council candidate's filed affidavit of residency. (45)</i>
D	XXIV	<i>Add a provision to allow for an alternate deadline when the date for performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday. (61)</i>
E	III § 3	<i>Requiring candidates for city council to not be in arrears only in the payment of liabilities due the city that are related to holding office. (62)</i>
F	XIX § 7	<i>Allow the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis. (63)</i>
G	XII § 4, XIII § 9, XVI § 11(b)	<i>Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code). (64)</i>
H	XVI § 10(a)	<i>Clarify that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods. (65)</i>
I	XVIII § 11(1)	<i>Remove voter registration requirement for those who make an application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition. (66)</i>

January 23, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
E	IV § 5(b)(1), XV § 3, XVII § 2(b), XXIV § 13(c)	<u>Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs. (19, 67)</u>
I	XXII § 3	<u>Delete the requirement for bids to be opened in a public place and in the presence of persons and remain open to the public. (43)</u>

February 6, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
C	XVI § 3(b)(1)	<i>Clarify that city council, not the rules of the civil service board, designates which managerial personnel are included with in the unclassified service. (90, 107)</i>
D	XVI § 6	<u>Reorganizations and reductions in force will be treated in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment. (91)</u>
E	XVI § 7	<i>It is the duty of the Human Resources Dept, rather than the civil service board rules and regulations, to establish rules governing the evaluation of conduct and performance and require remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service. (106)</i>
I	III § 7	<u>Require that special meetings shall be called upon the written request of five members of the city council rather than three. (123)</u>
J	XVIII § 11(1)	Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 days to 120 days. (114)
K	XVIII § 11(2)	Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum. (115)
M	IV § 5, XV § 3, XVI § 1, XVII § 2	Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters. (94)
O	IIIA § 2, IX § 2	<u>Provide the city secretary and city auditor with assistants and employees. (58)</u>

February 20, 2024

No amendments recommended for inclusion.

March 4, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
A	IXA XI § 2	<u>Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council. (83)</u>
V	III § 19, IV § 13, XI § 3, XV § 4, XVIII § 7,	<u>Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication. (110, 118, 119, 120)</u>

	XVIII § 15, XXII § 2	
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March 26, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
A	XXI § 13	Establish a Community Bond Commission (40)
C	IV § 14	Add a provision triggering the implementation of ranked choice voting in municipal elections once the state law is amended to allow for ranked choice voting (2)
D	III § 4	Increase the annual salary for councilmembers to \$125k/year and for the mayor to \$140k/year, indexed to consumer price index (97)
E	III § 4	<i>Clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, the mayor and councilmembers may also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law (109)</i>
J	XIIA	<u>Require that the Office of Community Police Oversight director be appointed by and report directly to the city council (101)</u>

April 2, 2024

Agenda Item	Charter Citation(s)	Description (Amendment No.)
G	XXIV § 17(b)	Allow city council’s appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of the member’s term. (13)
H	III § 15	<u>Delete the provision prohibiting the city council from interfering with appointments and subordinates of the city manager. (9)</u>
J	III § 8(b), III § 13(a), III § 19, XIII § 2(2), XIV § 8, XXII § (4)(1), (2), XXII § 10	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions. (1)</i>
L	XIIA	Add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission. (125)

SUMMARY OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS
RECOMMENDED BY THE 2024 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Items in bold are policy issues
Items underlined are changes to city operations
Items in italics are technical corrections

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Description</u>
III § 3	<i>Require candidates for city council to not be in arrears only in the payment of liabilities due the city that are related to holding office.</i>
III § 4	Raise the mayor’s salary to \$145k/year and councilmembers’ salaries to \$125k/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index.
III § 4	<i>Clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, the mayor and councilmembers also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law.</i>
III § 7	<u>Require that special meetings shall be called upon the written request of five members of the city council rather than three.</u>
III § 8(b)	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
III § 13(a)	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
III § 15	<u>Delete the provision prohibiting the city council from interfering with appointments and subordinates of the city manager.</u>
III § 19	<u>Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.</u>
III § 19	<i>Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.</i>
IV § 5(b)(1)	<u>Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.</u>
IV § 5(b)(2)	Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.
IV § 5(b)(2)	Add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission.

- IV § 6(a) *Amend city council candidate residency requirements to match the requirements in the Election Code.*
- IV § 6(c)(2) *Delete the requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a city council candidate's filed affidavit of residency.*
- IV § 13 Broaden the city's notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.
- IV § 14 **Add a provision triggering the implementation of ranked choice voting in municipal elections once the state law is amended to allow for ranked choice voting.**
- IXA Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.
- XI § 1 *Require the city manager to submit an estimated budget BY August 15 instead of ON August 15.*
- XI § 2 Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.
- XI § 3 Broaden the city's notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.
- XII § 4 *Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).*
- XIIA Require that the director of the Office of Community Police Oversight be appointed by and report directly to the city council, rather than the city manager.
- XIII § 2(2) *Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using "resident" or "people" in place of or in addition to "citizen" in certain provisions.*
- XIII § 9 *Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).*
- XIV § 8 *Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using "resident" or "people" in place of or in addition to "citizen" in certain provisions.*
- XV § 3 Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.
- XV § 3 **Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.**

- XV § 4 Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.
- XVI § 1 **Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.**
- XVI § 3(b)(1) *Clarify that city council, not the rules of the civil service board, designates which managerial personnel are included with in the unclassified service.*
- XVI § 6 *Reorganizations and reductions in force will be treated in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment.*
- XVI § 7 *It is the duty of the Human Resources Dept, rather than the civil service board rules and regulations, to establish rules governing the evaluation of conduct and performance and require remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.*
- XVI § 10(a) *Clarify that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods.*
- XVI § 11(b) *Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).*
- XVII § 2(a) **Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.**
- XVII § 2(b) Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.
- XXII § 4(1), (2) *Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.*
- XVIII § 7 Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.
- XVIII § 11(1) *Remove voter registration requirement for those who make an application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition.*
- XVIII § 11(1) **Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 days to 120 days.**
- XVIII § 11(2) **Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum.**

- XVIII § 15 Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.
- XIX § 7 *Allow the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis.*
- XXI § 13 **Establish a community bond commission.**
- XXII § 2 Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.
- XXII § 3 *Delete the requirement for bids to be opened in a public place and in the presence of persons and remain open to the public.*
- XXII § 10 *Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.*
- XXIV § 13(c) Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.
- XXIV § 17(b) **Allow city council’s appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of the member’s term.**
- XXIV § 22 *Add a provision to allow for an alternate deadline when the date for performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday.*

Charter Language Changes

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. COUNCIL QUALIFICATIONS.

Each member of the city council shall, in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by law, be at the date of election a qualified voter of the city, and shall not be in arrears in the payment of any taxes or other liabilities due the city.

Recommendation: Require candidates for city council to not be in arrears only in the payment of liabilities due the city that are related to holding office.”

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. COUNCIL QUALIFICATIONS.

Each member of the city council shall, in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by law, be at the date of election a qualified voter of the city, and shall not be in arrears in the payment of [~~any taxes or other~~] liabilities due the city related to holding office.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) Effective October 1, 2001, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$37,500 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective until the swearing in of city council members in June 2015.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015 and until the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The compensation provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the compensation provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any compensation year, then the city council member’s compensation provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which compensation reduction

is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.”

Recommendation: Raise the mayor’s salary to \$140,000/year and councilmembers’ salaries to \$125,000/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) ~~[Effective October 1, 2001, e]Each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$60,000 [\$37,500] for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$80,000 [\$60,000] for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. [Note: This version of S/s]subsection (a) is effective until the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015].]~~

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015], each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$125,000 [\$60,000] for the following [each] year (prorated for a partial year[s]) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive a salary in [as compensation for services] the sum of \$140,000 [\$60,000] for the following [each] year (prorated for a partial year[s]) served as mayor on the city council. The annual salary for the mayor and members of the city council shall thereafter be subject to a yearly adjustment equal to the year-over-year percentage increase in the local consumer price index. [Note: This version of S/s]subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2025 [2015] and until the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]

~~[(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. [Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]]~~

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The salary [compensation] provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the salary [compensation] provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any salary [~~compensation~~] year, then the city council member's salary [~~compensation~~] provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which salary [~~compensation~~] reduction is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) Effective October 1, 2001, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$37,500 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective until the swearing in of city council members in June 2015.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. The mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015 and until the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive as compensation for services the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council. *[Note: This version of subsection (a) is effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014.]*

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The compensation provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the compensation provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any compensation year, then the city council member’s compensation provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which compensation reduction

is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.”

Recommendation: Clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, the mayor and councilmembers also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(a) Effective upon the swearing in of city council members in June 2015, each member of the city council, other than the mayor, shall receive a salary in [~~as compensation for services~~] the sum of \$60,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) that the member serves on the city council. Effective upon the swearing in as mayor of an individual who did not hold the office of mayor on November 4, 2014, the mayor shall receive a salary in [~~as compensation for services~~] the sum of \$80,000 for each year (prorated for partial years) served as mayor on the city council.

(b) For purposes of this section, a “year” means a 12-consecutive-month period.

(c) The salary [~~compensation~~] provided for in Subsection (a) will be paid on a biweekly basis.

(d) In addition to receiving the salary [~~compensation~~] provided for in Subsection (a), all necessary expenses incurred by members of the city council in the performance of their duties will be paid by the city, when authorized by the city council. The mayor and each member of the city council may also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by state and federal law and adopted by city council through resolution or ordinance.

(e) If any city council member, including the mayor, misses more than 10 percent of the total number of regular meetings held by the city council during any salary [~~compensation~~] year, then the city council member’s salary [~~compensation~~] provided for under Subsection (a) for that year will be reduced proportionately by the percentage of meetings missed. For purposes of this subsection, regular meetings include both those held by the full city council and those held by the standing city council committees on which a member serves. Meetings missed by a city council member while he or she is on the official business of the city council and at the direction of the city council will not be counted towards the percentage of missed meetings for which salary [~~compensation~~] reduction is required under this subsection, but will be counted as though the member had attended the meetings that are missed while so engaged in city business.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 10-3

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Special meetings shall be called by the city secretary upon the written request of the mayor, the city manager or three members of the council. Any such notice shall state the subject to be considered at the special meeting and may provide for the taking up of any other matters presented at such meeting.”

Recommendation: Require that special meetings shall be called upon the written request of five members of the city council rather than three members.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Special meetings shall be called by the city secretary upon the written request of the mayor, the city manager or five [~~three~~] members of the council. Any such notice shall state the subject to be considered at the special meeting and may provide for the taking up of any other matters presented at such meeting.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 8-5

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 8. OPEN MEETINGS; SPEAKERS.

(b) The city council shall adopt rules of procedure that provide reasonable opportunity for citizens to be heard by the city council.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 8. OPEN MEETINGS; SPEAKERS.

(b) The city council shall adopt rules of procedure that provide reasonable opportunity for people [~~citizens~~] to be heard by the city council.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 13. POLICY-MAKING PROCEDURES AND OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) In the performance of the powers of government, it is the duty of the mayor and the city council to make suitable provision for the assurance of adequate and appropriate prior review and consideration of official actions to be taken by the city council, and to assure that a high performance level of services to the citizens is maintained, responsiveness to the people is provided, and accountability in municipal government is assured. To this end, the city council shall:

(1) adopt rules of procedure governing the conduct of city council meetings and the introduction, consideration, and method of review of actions to be considered by the city council, consistent with the city manager’s authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager’s operational agenda;

(2) create a standing finance committee of the city council charged with the responsibility for financial and audit oversight of the operations of city government;

(3) establish such additional standing committees and their duties as the city council determines is appropriate; and

(4) establish the process by which the committees shall conduct their business and review matters for city council consideration, consistent with the city manager’s authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager’s operational agenda.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. POLICY-MAKING PROCEDURES AND OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) In the performance of the powers of government, it is the duty of the mayor and the city council to make suitable provision for the assurance of adequate and appropriate prior review and consideration of official actions to be taken by the city council, and to assure that a high performance level of services to the residents [~~citizens~~] is maintained, responsiveness to the people is provided, and accountability in municipal government is assured. To this end, the city council shall:

(1) adopt rules of procedure governing the conduct of city council meetings and the introduction, consideration, and method of review of actions to be considered by the city

council, consistent with the city manager’s authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager’s operational agenda;

(2) create a standing finance committee of the city council charged with the responsibility for financial and audit oversight of the operations of city government;

(3) establish such additional standing committees and their duties as the city council determines is appropriate; and

(4) establish the process by which the committees shall conduct their business and review matters for city council consideration, consistent with the city manager’s authority to present directly to the entire city council the city manager’s operational agenda.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 15. NO INTERFERENCE BY COUNCIL WITH APPOINTMENTS OR SUBORDINATES OF CITY MANAGER.

Neither the council nor any of its committees or members shall dictate or attempt to dictate any person’s appointment to, or removal from, office or employment by the city manager or any of the city manager’s subordinates, or in any manner interfere in the appointment of officers and employees in the departments of administrative service vested in the manager by this Charter. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the council and its members shall deal with that part of the administrative service for which the city manager is responsible solely through such manager, and neither the council nor any city council member shall give orders to any of the subordinates of the city manager in those departments, either publicly or privately. This section shall not apply to those professional and administrative assistants provided for in Section 14 of this chapter.”

Recommendation: Delete the provision prohibiting the city council from interfering with appointments and subordinates of the city manager.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 15. RESERVED. ~~[NO INTERFERENCE BY COUNCIL WITH APPOINTMENTS OR SUBORDINATES OF CITY MANAGER.~~

~~Neither the council nor any of its committees or members shall dictate or attempt to dictate any person’s appointment to, or removal from, office or employment by the city manager or any of the city manager’s subordinates, or in any manner interfere in the appointment of officers and employees in the departments of administrative service vested in the manager by this Charter. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the council and its members shall deal with that part of the administrative service for which the city manager is responsible solely through such manager, and neither the council nor any city council member shall give orders to any of the subordinates of the city manager in those departments, either publicly or privately. This section shall not apply to those professional and administrative assistants provided for in Section 14 of this chapter.]”~~

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 9-4

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any citizen upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any citizen upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies, and once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER III. CITY COUNCIL.

Current language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any citizen upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 19. INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The city council shall cause the annual financial statements and related records and accounts of the city to be audited annually by a firm registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a firm practicing public accountancy. The auditor shall be selected by the city council, and shall be responsible to the council. The report of such auditor and the financial statements and related audit opinion for the fiscal year shall be printed and a copy shall be furnished to each city council member and the city manager, and a copy shall be kept available in the office of the city secretary for inspection by any person [~~citizen~~] upon request. A summary of the annual financial statements and the audit report shall also be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. The original report of the auditor or auditors shall be kept among the permanent records of the city.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 9-4

CHAPTER IIIA. CITY SECRETARY.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES

The city council shall provide the city secretary with such assistants as it may deem necessary, and they shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant may be discharged at any time by the city secretary. All powers and duties imposed on the city secretary may be exercised and performed by any assistant under the city secretary’s direction.”

Recommendation: Provide the city secretary and city auditor with assistants and employees.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES

The city council shall provide the city secretary with such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary, and they shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant or employee may be discharged at any time by the city secretary. All powers and duties imposed on the city secretary may be exercised and performed by any assistant or employee under the city secretary’s direction.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(1) Not later than 30 days after the city council is briefed on the federal decennial census taken in the prior year, each member of the city council shall appoint one member of the redistricting commission. The mayor shall designate the chair of the redistricting commission, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. In making such appointments, the city council and the mayor shall, as nearly as may be practicable, provide fair and balanced representation of all geographical areas of the city in the redistricting process and provide a total membership that reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the city’s population. Members of the redistricting commission shall be appointed to serve a term that will end upon completion of the redistricting commission’s work.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(1) Not later than 30 days after the city council is briefed on the federal decennial census taken in the prior year, each member of the city council shall appoint one member of the redistricting commission. The mayor shall designate the chair of the redistricting commission, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. In making such appointments, the city council and the mayor shall, as nearly as may be practicable, provide fair and balanced representation of all geographical areas of the city in the redistricting process and provide a total membership that reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the city’s population. Members of the redistricting commission shall be appointed to serve a term that will end upon completion of the redistricting commission’s work. The commission shall elect one of the members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-1

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission. A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission.”

Recommendation: Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be Dallas residents who are citizens or authorized residents of the United States [~~registered to vote~~] and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission. A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 7-6

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 10-3, language amended

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission. A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission.”

Recommendation: Add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 5. DISTRICTS AND REDISTRICTING.

(b) Redistricting commission.

(2) Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. [~~A member of the city council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission.~~] A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the city council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the city council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission. The following persons are not eligible to serve on the redistricting commission:

(A) a current member of the city council or the spouse of a current member of the city council or any family member within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity;

(B) a person or the spouse of a person who has been appointed to or elected to any elective federal, state, county, or city office during the three years before the appointment date;

(C) the campaign manager, treasurer, or staff member of any candidate for federal, state, county, or city elected office during the five years before the appointment date;

(D) a registered lobbyist or spouse of a lobbyist registered with the city, county, state, or federal government;

(E) a person or spouse of a person who works for the city or who works with or for any current member of the city council;

(F) a person or spouse of a person who has a contractual relationship with the city, has had a contractual relationship with the city within three years before the date of appointment, has a contractual relationship with any current member of the city council or the spouse of a current city council member; or has had a contractual relationship with any current member of the city council or the spouse of a current city council member within three years before the date of appointment (this paragraph does not apply to non-negotiated, form contracts for general city services or benefits if the city services or benefits are made available to the person or spouse on the same terms that they are made available to the general public); or

(G) a person who, in accordance with this charter, city ordinances, or written city policy, is ineligible for appointment to a city board or commission.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-1

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(a) No person shall be eligible as a candidate for member of council, Place 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, unless the person is at the time a bona fide resident of District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, respectively, and has resided within the district in which the person is a candidate for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the election. Any person elected to a place representing a district must continuously reside in the district during that person’s term of office. A candidate for member of council, Place 15, may be a resident of any portion of the city, must have resided in the city for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the election, and must continuously reside within the city during the person’s term of office.”

Recommendation: Amend city council candidate residency requirements to match the requirements in the Election Code

Proposed language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(a) No person shall be eligible as a candidate for member of council, Place 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, unless the person is at the time a bona fide resident of District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, respectively, has resided continuously in Texas for 12 months, and has resided within the district in which the person is a candidate for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate’s application for a place on the ballot [~~election~~]. Any person elected to a place representing a district must continuously reside in the district during that person’s term of office. A candidate for member of council, Place 15, may be a resident of any portion of the city, must have resided continuously in the city for a period of at least six months and continuously in Texas for 12 months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate’s application for a place on the ballot [~~election~~], and must continuously reside within the city during the person’s term of office.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(c) No person may appear on the official ballot as a candidate for a place on the city council unless:

(1) that person files with the city secretary a signed, sworn, and dated affidavit certifying compliance with the residency requirements of this section, except that a sworn application for a place on the ballot filed with the city secretary in accordance with the Texas Election Code will satisfy the requirements of this paragraph; and

(2) the city secretary is reasonably able to verify the truth of the affidavit of residence.”

Recommendation: Delete the requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a city council candidate’s filed affidavit of residency.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 6. CANDIDATE’S RESIDENCE.

(c) No person may appear on the official ballot as a candidate for a place on the city council unless[:

(1)] that person files with the city secretary a signed, sworn, and dated affidavit certifying compliance with the residency requirements of this section, except that a sworn application for a place on the ballot filed with the city secretary in accordance with the Texas Election Code will satisfy the requirements of this paragraph[; and

(2) the city secretary is reasonably able to verify the truth of the affidavit of residency].”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language:

“SEC. 13. DISCLOSURE OF CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) The city secretary shall cause to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, on at least two separate dates (20 and two days, respectively) prior to each election or recall election, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council that have been reported to the city secretary prior to the dates of publication.

(b) The city secretary shall also cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council reported to the city secretary following any election or recall election.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. DISCLOSURE OF CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) The city secretary shall cause to be published, in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies reasonably calculated to effectuate notice to the applicable community and in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, on at least two separate dates (20 and two days, respectively) prior to each election or recall election, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council that have been reported to the city secretary prior to the dates of publication.

(b) The city secretary shall also cause to be published in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies reasonably calculated to effectuate notice to the applicable community and in a newspaper of general circulation or on the city’s website, a notice disclosing the names and contribution amounts of individuals and political committees making contributions to the campaigns and/or election committees of the candidates for mayor and city council reported to the city secretary following any election or recall election.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Add a provision triggering the implementation of ranked choice voting in municipal elections once the state law is amended to allow for ranked choice voting.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 14. RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

(a) This section is effective only when ranked choice voting is allowed by the state constitution and state laws. If this section is effective, and there is a conflict between this section and Section 11, this section controls. If there is a conflict between this section and state law, state law controls.

(b) Elections for Places 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 shall take place using the ranked choice voting process. The ranked choice voting process shall occur in accordance with this section unless otherwise specified in state law.

(c) All candidates in a ranked choice election shall be listed on the ballot. The ballot shall permit a qualified voter to rank five candidates for each office, inclusive of any write-in candidate permitted by law, in order of preference, unless there are fewer than five candidates on the ballot for such office, in which case the ballot shall permit a voter to rank the total number of such candidates for such office inclusive of any write-in candidate permitted by law.

(d) For all ranked choice elections, the following tabulation procedures apply:

(1) If a candidate receives a majority of highest rank votes, that candidate shall be elected.

(2) If no candidate receives a majority of highest rank votes, tabulation shall proceed in rounds. In each round, the number of votes for each continuing candidate shall be counted; each continuing ballot shall count as one vote for its highest ranked continuing candidate for that round; and inactive ballots shall not be counted for any continuing candidate. A round ends with one of the following outcomes:

(i) If there are two continuing candidates, the candidate with the most votes shall be elected.

(ii) If there are more than two continuing candidates, the last place candidate shall be eliminated and a new round shall begin; provided, however, that batch elimination shall occur at the same time as such elimination of the last place candidate, unless such batch elimination would result in only one continuing candidate, in which case no such batch elimination shall occur. BATCH ELIMINATION means the simultaneous elimination of multiple candidates whose election is mathematically impossible.

(3) A tie between two or more candidates shall be resolved in accordance with the election law.

(e) No runoff election shall be held.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 8-6

CHAPTER IX. CITY AUDITOR.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES.

The council shall provide the city auditor with such assistants as it may deem necessary, and those assistants shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant may be discharged at any time by the city auditor. All powers and duties imposed on the city auditor may be exercised and performed by any assistant under the city auditor’s direction.”

Recommendation: Provide the city secretary and city auditor with assistants and employees.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES.

The council shall provide the city auditor with such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary, and those assistants and employees shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant or employee may be discharged at any time by the city auditor. All powers and duties imposed on the city auditor may be exercised and performed by any assistant and employee under the city auditor’s direction.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER IXA. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL [RESERVED].

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 1. CREATION OF OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL; APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) There is hereby created an office to be known as the office of the inspector general. The head of this department shall be a competent practicing attorney of recognized ability, a certified inspector general, and shall be known as the inspector general. The inspector general shall serve as an independent investigative authority regarding misconduct involving fraud, corruption, ethics, waste, and abuse. The Code of Ethics and other ordinances should include the provisions necessary to ensure independence of the office of the inspector general.

(b) The inspector general shall be a resident of the City of Dallas. If at the time of appointment, the inspector general resides outside the City of Dallas, then he or she shall move into the city within a time period required by the city council. The inspector general shall be appointed by a majority vote of all the members of the city council and shall serve for a period of two years from the date of appointment and thereafter until a successor is appointed, unless sooner discharged by the council, and the inspector general shall not be discharged during the inspector general’s term of office except upon a 3/4 vote of all members of the city council. The inspector general shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the council.

SEC. 2. ASSISTANTS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

The inspector general shall have such assistants and employees as shall be provided by ordinance, and they shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the city council. Any assistant or employee may be discharged at any time by the inspector general. The inspector general and any assistant inspector general shall devote their entire time to the service of the city. All powers and duties imposed on the inspector general may be exercised and performed by any assistant under the direction of the inspector general.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

The inspector general shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Supervising and controlling the structure of the office of the inspector general.

(2) Initiating investigations and receiving and investigating complaints and tips regarding misconduct involving ethics, fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption of city officials, city employees, and persons doing business with the city.

(3) Examining the books, accounts, reports, vouchers, financial records, records of the city, documents, and tangible things relevant to the subject matter of an investigation regardless of their form.

(4) Submitting reports summarizing the findings of investigations and reviews completed by the inspector general.

(5) Acting, on behalf of the city, as liaison to law enforcement agencies regarding fraud and corruption investigations initiated by the office of the inspector general.

(6) Presenting ethics complaints regarding alleged or suspected violations of the city's code of ethics before a commission created to make findings concerning the ethical nature of actions and conduct and recommending appropriate sanction.

(7) Doing all things necessary to carry out the functions set forth in this chapter.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 15-0, subject to final language approval

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

**CHAPTER XI.
THE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RELATING THERETO.**

Current language:

“SEC. 1. ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The fiscal year of the city shall begin on the first day of October of each year and shall end with the 30th day of September next following. On the 15th day of August of each year the city manager shall submit to the council a budget estimate of the revenue of the city and the expense of conducting the affairs thereof for the ensuing fiscal year. This estimate shall be compiled from information obtained from the several departments, divisions and offices of the city on uniform forms furnished by the city manager. It shall be in accordance with uniform accounting procedures with comparisons to the last two fiscal years and an estimate of the probable income for the period covered with the significant underlying assumptions.”

Recommendation: Require the city manager to submit an estimated budget BY August 15 instead of ON August 15.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 1. ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The fiscal year of the city shall begin on the first day of October of each year and shall end with the 30th day of September next following. By [~~On~~] the 15th day of August of each year the city manager shall submit to the council a budget estimate of the revenue of the city and the expense of conducting the affairs thereof for the ensuing fiscal year. This estimate shall be compiled from information obtained from the several departments, divisions and offices of the city on uniform forms furnished by the city manager. It shall be in accordance with uniform accounting procedures with comparisons to the last two fiscal years and an estimate of the probable income for the period covered with the significant underlying assumptions.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

**CHAPTER XI.
THE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RELATING THERETO.**

Current language:

“SEC. 2. BUDGET ESTIMATES TO BE FURNISHED TO CITY MANAGER BY DEPARTMENTS NOT UNDER CITY MANAGER’S IMMEDIATE DIRECTION.”

Every department of the city government not under the direct control of the city manager, except the city auditor, shall furnish to the city manager, for use in the preparation of recommendations to the council regarding the annual budget, a detailed budget estimate of the needs and requirements of such department for the coming year. The city auditor shall furnish a detailed budget estimate of the needs and requirements of the city auditor’s office for the coming year directly to the city council, to be approved by the city council, and then consolidated with the city manager’s annual budget estimate.”

Recommendation: Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. BUDGET ESTIMATES TO BE FURNISHED TO CITY MANAGER BY DEPARTMENTS NOT UNDER CITY MANAGER’S IMMEDIATE DIRECTION.”

Every department of the city government not under the direct control of the city manager, except the city auditor and the inspector general, shall furnish to the city manager, for use in the preparation of recommendations to the council regarding the annual budget, a detailed budget estimate of the needs and requirements of such department for the coming year. The city auditor and the inspector general shall furnish a detailed budget estimate of the needs and requirements of the city auditor’s office and the inspector general’s office, respectively, for the coming year directly to the city council, to be approved by the city council, and then consolidated with the city manager’s annual budget estimate. Any reduction to the inspector general’s budget must be approved by a 3/4 vote of all members of the city council.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

**CHAPTER XI. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RELATING
THERETO.**

Current language:

“SEC. 3. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

Upon receipt of the city manager’s estimate, the council shall call a public hearing upon the submitted budget to be held before a committee of the council, or before the entire council sitting as a committee of the whole. Following the public hearings, the council shall pass on first reading the appropriation ordinance and shall cause it to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city with a separate schedule setting forth the items in the city manager’s estimate that were omitted or changed by the council, if any. The council shall not pass the appropriation ordinance upon final reading until at least 10 days after its publication. Upon passage of the appropriation ordinance by the council, it shall become immediately effective, and the funds appropriated therein become available on October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

Upon receipt of the city manager’s estimate, the council shall call a public hearing upon the submitted budget to be held before a committee of the council, or before the entire council sitting as a committee of the whole. Following the public hearings, the council shall pass on first reading the appropriation ordinance and shall cause it to be published in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and in a newspaper of general circulation in the city with a separate schedule setting forth the items in the city manager’s estimate that were omitted or changed by the council, if any. The council shall not pass the appropriation ordinance upon final reading until at least 10 days after its publication. Upon passage of the appropriation ordinance by the council, it shall become immediately effective, and the funds appropriated therein become available on October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER XII. POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. DISCIPLINE OF POLICE; HEARING.

The chief of police shall have the right to discipline any of the officers or employees who may be under the chief’s jurisdiction and control for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief of police. The chief of police may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of police shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have five days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Recommendation: Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. DISCIPLINE OF POLICE; HEARING.

The chief of police shall have the right to discipline any of the officers or employees who may be under the chief’s jurisdiction and control for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief of police. The chief of police may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of police shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XIII. COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Require that the director of the Office of Community Police Oversight be appointed by and report directly to the city council, rather than the city manager.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 1. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT.

There is hereby created the office of community police oversight, the head of which shall be the director of community police oversight who shall be appointed by the city council and who shall be a person professionally competent by experience and training to manage such office.

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES.

The council shall provide the director with such employees as it may deem necessary, and those employees shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the city council. Any such employee may be discharged at any time by the director. All powers and duties imposed on the director may be exercised and performed by any employee under the director’s direction.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 11-2

CHAPTER XIII. FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. DUTIES.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall:

(2) take all necessary measures to protect the city and the property of its citizens from destruction by fire or conflagration;”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. DUTIES.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall:

(2) take all necessary measures to protect the city and the property of its residents [~~citizens~~] from destruction by fire or conflagration;”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XIII. FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 9. DISCIPLINE OF FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; HEARING.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall have the right to discipline any officers or employees who may be under the chief’s control and management for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief for the department. The chief of the fire-rescue department may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of the fire-rescue department shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have five days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Recommendation: Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).

Proposed language:

“SEC. 9. DISCIPLINE OF FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL; HEARING.

The chief of the fire-rescue department shall have the right to discipline any officers or employees who may be under the chief’s control and management for violations of city ordinances or federal or state law, or for failure to obey orders given by the proper authority, or the orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the chief for the department. The chief of the fire-rescue department may delegate this authority to discipline as he or she deems fit. If any officer or employee is discharged, the chief of the fire-rescue department shall forthwith in writing certify the fact, together with the cause for the action, to the city manager. A disciplined officer or employee shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of a suspension, demotion, or discharge within which to demand a hearing before the city manager, as provided in this Charter, but such demand must be made in writing. If demanded, the city manager shall proceed to inquire into the cause of the discipline and render judgment thereon, which judgment, if the charge is sustained, may be suspension, reduction in rank, discharge, or such other discipline as may seem just and equitable to the city manager under all the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Such judgment is final unless a discharged or demoted officer or employee desires to exercise the right of a public hearing before a trial board or an administrative law judge as provided by this Charter.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XIV. FRANCHISES.

Current language:

“SEC. 8. ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN.

The city shall have the power through eminent domain proceedings to acquire any public utility operating with or without a franchise and furnishing a public service to the citizens of Dallas. The procedure to be used in the acquisition of such property shall be that as set forth in Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code, as amended, and other applicable state law. In valuing the property, the measure of damages shall be the fair market value of the physical properties together with its franchise, if any, taken together as one system. This power shall be in addition to and cumulative of any other powers of acquisition granted to or reserved by the city in a franchise ordinance.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 8. ACQUISITION BY EMINENT DOMAIN.

The city shall have the power through eminent domain proceedings to acquire any public utility operating with or without a franchise and furnishing a public service to the residents [~~citizens~~] of Dallas. The procedure to be used in the acquisition of such property shall be that as set forth in Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code, as amended, and other applicable state law. In valuing the property, the measure of damages shall be the fair market value of the physical properties together with its franchise, if any, taken together as one system. This power shall be in addition to and cumulative of any other powers of acquisition granted to or reserved by the city in a franchise ordinance.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 qualified voters of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas, and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair and one to be the vice chair.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 qualified voters of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas[5] and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair [~~and one to be the vice chair~~]. The commission shall elect one of the members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 qualified voters of the City of Dallas who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas, and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair and one to be the vice chair.”

Recommendation: Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. ZONING COMMISSION.

The city council shall appoint 15 Dallas residents who are citizens or authorized residents of the United States [~~qualified voters of the City of Dallas~~] who shall constitute the zoning commission of the City of Dallas, and shall be the city plan commission as the same is referred to by state statute for the approval of plats and subdivisions. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or general laws of the State of Texas, except that a member is not required to be a qualified voter of the city. The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair and one to be the vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 7-6

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 10-3, language amended

CHAPTER XV. PLANNING AND ZONING.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. DUTIES OF ZONING COMMISSION.

The zoning commission shall:

(3) Act as an advisory body to the city council in relation to any changes in the boundaries of the various original districts and any changes in the zoning ordinances and regulations to be enforced therein. Such recommendation shall be made after advertisement of and a public hearing held thereon. Notice of such public hearing shall be published at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the city at least 10 days prior to the date of said hearing, or as otherwise provided by state law or this charter.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. DUTIES OF ZONING COMMISSION.

The zoning commission shall:

(3) Act as an advisory body to the city council in relation to any changes in the boundaries of the various original districts and any changes in the zoning ordinances and regulations to be enforced therein. Such recommendation shall be made after advertisement of and a public hearing held thereon. Notice of such public hearing shall be published in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies reasonably calculated to effectuate notice to the applicable community, and at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the city at least 10 days prior to the date of said hearing, or as otherwise provided by state law or this charter.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 1. ORGANIZATION OF CIVIL SERVICE.

There is hereby created and established a civil service board to be composed of seven members who shall be qualified taxpaying citizens of the City of Dallas and a number of adjunct members equal to the number of members on the city council who shall have qualifications established by the city council. Biennially in September of each odd-numbered year, the city council shall appoint the members and adjunct members to serve for two years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified, and the mayor shall designate one member as chair subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. The adjunct members shall not have voting privileges on matters to be determined by the civil service board but shall perform such duties as prescribed for them by this Charter. The members and adjunct members of the civil service board shall not hold any other position under the city, county, or state government. The city council may remove any member or adjunct member of the board. Any vacancies on the board must be filled by the city council for the unexpired term.”

Recommendation: Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered/qualified voters.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 1. ORGANIZATION OF CIVIL SERVICE.

There is hereby created and established a civil service board to be composed of seven members who shall be Dallas residents who are citizens or authorized residents of the United States [~~qualified voters of the City of Dallas~~] and a number of adjunct members equal to the number of members on the city council who shall have qualifications established by the city council. Biennially in September of each odd-numbered year, the city council shall appoint the members and adjunct members to serve for two years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified, and the mayor shall designate one member as chair subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. The adjunct members shall not have voting privileges on matters to be determined by the civil service board but shall perform such duties as prescribed for them by this Charter. The members and adjunct members of the civil service board shall not hold any other position under the city, county, or state government. The city council may remove any member or adjunct member of the board. Any vacancies on the board must be filled by the city council for the unexpired term.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 10-3, language amended

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. CIVIL SERVICE DIVIDED INTO CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE.

- (b) The unclassified service shall include:
- (1) the directors of departments, assistant directors of departments, and other managerial personnel as designated by rules of the board;
 - (2) the municipal court clerk and the secretary of the civil service board; and
 - (3) the labor class, which shall include all ordinary unskilled labor.”

Recommendation: Clarify that city council, not the rules of the civil service board, designates which managerial personnel are included within the unclassified service.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. CIVIL SERVICE DIVIDED INTO CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE.

- (b) The unclassified service shall include:
- (1) the directors of departments, assistant directors of departments, and other managerial personnel as designated by city council [~~rules of the board~~];
 - (2) the municipal court clerk and the secretary of the civil service board; and
 - (3) the labor class, which shall include all ordinary unskilled labor.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 6. BOARD TO PROVIDE FOR PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENT IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(a) The board shall provide for promotion to all positions in the classified service on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination or other appropriate evidences of competition and by records of merit, efficiency, character, conduct, and seniority.

(b) The board shall also provide for incumbents of ranks or grades that have been eliminated by departmental reorganization:

(1) to be reassigned to other positions; and

(2) to receive no reduction in compensation for a period not to exceed two years.

(c) The board may, but is not required to, provide for reassignment in the case of:

(1) reduction in force; or

(2) removal or reduction for cause under standard civil service hearing and appeal procedures.

(d) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply to a reassignment made under Subsection (c).”

Recommendation: Reorganizations and reductions in force will be treated in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 6. BOARD TO PROVIDE FOR PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENT IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

(a) The board shall provide for promotion to all positions in the classified service on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by examination or other appropriate evidences of competition and by records of merit, efficiency, character, conduct, and seniority.

(b) ~~The board shall also provide for incumbents of ranks or grades that have been eliminated by departmental reorganization:~~

~~(1) to be reassigned to other positions; and~~

~~(2) to receive no reduction in compensation for a period not to exceed two years.~~

~~(e)~~ The board may, but is not required to, provide for reassignment in the case of:

(1) reduction in force; ~~or~~

(2) removal or reduction for cause under standard civil service hearing and appeal procedures; or

(3) departmental reorganization.

~~[(d) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply to a reassignment made under Subsection (c).]~~”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. BOARD TO ESTABLISH RULES GOVERNING CONDUCT.

It shall be the duty of the board, in the code of rules and regulations approved by the council, to establish rules governing evaluation of conduct and performance and requiring remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.”

Recommendation: Clarify that it is the duty of the Human Resources Department, rather than the civil service board rules and regulations, to establish rules governing the evaluation of conduct and performance and requiring remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. BOARD TO ESTABLISH RULES GOVERNING CONDUCT.

It shall be the duty of the human resources department [~~board, in the code of rules and regulations approved by the council,~~] to establish rules governing evaluation of conduct and performance and requiring remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 10. PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

(a) Appointments or promotions of city officers and employees in the classified and unclassified service shall not be deemed complete until a period of six months shall have elapsed. A probationer may be discharged, suspended or reduced within said period by the city manager, or the head of the department in which said probationer is employed without right of appeal.”

Recommendation: Clarify that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 10. PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

(a) Appointments or promotions of city officers and employees in the classified and unclassified service shall not be deemed complete until a period of six months shall have elapsed. A probationer may be discharged, suspended or reduced within said period by the city manager, or the head of the department in which said probationer is employed without right of appeal. A probationary period served as a civilian employee will not satisfy the probationary period for a position in the sworn service with the police department or the fire-rescue department.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVI. CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. EMPLOYEE ACTIONS AFTER PROBATION PERIOD.

(b) An officer or employee who has been disciplined by the head of any department under the city manager shall have five days from receipt of notice of such action within which to demand, in writing, a hearing before the city manager. At the hearing, the city manager shall inquire into the cause of the disciplinary action and render a decision either affirming the action of the department head, setting aside the action of the department head, or directing the department head to enter a new order that the city manager determines is just and equitable. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the city manager is not limited in determining the extent of any discipline ordered. The decision of the city manager is final unless the disciplined officer or employee exercises any right to a public hearing before the trial board as provided by this Charter. This right of appeal does not apply to department directors, assistant department directors, and other managerial personnel designated by the city council, or to employees in departments exempted from the provisions applicable to the civil service.”

Recommendation: Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules (Chapter 34 of the Dallas City Code).

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. EMPLOYEE ACTIONS AFTER PROBATION PERIOD.

(b) An officer or employee who has been disciplined by the head of any department under the city manager shall have 10 [~~five~~] days from receipt of notice of such action within which to demand, in writing, a hearing before the city manager. At the hearing, the city manager shall inquire into the cause of the disciplinary action and render a decision either affirming the action of the department head, setting aside the action of the department head, or directing the department head to enter a new order that the city manager determines is just and equitable. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the city manager is not limited in determining the extent of any discipline ordered. The decision of the city manager is final unless the disciplined officer or employee exercises any right to a public hearing before the trial board as provided by this Charter. This right of appeal does not apply to department directors, assistant department directors, and other managerial personnel designated by the city council, or to employees in departments exempted from the provisions applicable to the civil service.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVII. PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(a) The city council shall appoint a number of qualified voters of the city equal to the number of members on the city council who shall constitute the park and recreation board of the city. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or by general laws of the State of Texas, and shall serve without compensation.”

Recommendation: Allow residents to serve on the redistricting commission, the plan commission, the civil service board, and the park and recreation board instead of citizens or registered voters.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(a) The city council shall appoint a number of Dallas residents who are citizens or authorized residents of the United States ~~[qualified voters of the city]~~ equal to the number of members on the city council who shall constitute the park and recreation board of the city. The members shall possess the same qualifications and be subject to the same disqualifications as provided by the Charter for members of the city council, or by general laws of the State of Texas, except that a member is not required to be a qualified voter of the city, and shall serve without compensation.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 7-6

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 10-3, language amended

CHAPTER XVII. PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(b) All members of the board shall be appointed by the city council, in accordance with Chapter XXIV, Section 13 of this Charter, as are other boards and shall serve for like terms, as provided by this Charter. The mayor shall appoint the president of the board from among the members appointed by the city council, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS.

(b) All members of the board shall be appointed by the city council, in accordance with Chapter XXIV, Section 13 of this Charter, as are other boards and shall serve for like terms, as provided by this Charter. The mayor shall appoint the president of the board from among the members appointed by the city council, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. The board shall elect one of the members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES.

The descriptive caption or title of each ordinance stating in summary the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty for violation of the ordinance, shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, unless otherwise provided by state law or this Charter, in which event the specific provisions shall be followed.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES.

The descriptive caption or title of each ordinance stating in summary the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty for violation of the ordinance, shall be published in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, unless otherwise provided by state law or this Charter, in which event the specific provisions shall be followed.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five registered voters of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 60 days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Recommendation: Remove voter registration requirement for those who make an application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five residents [~~registered voters~~] of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 60 days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five registered voters of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 60 days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Recommendation: Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 days to 120 days.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(1) A committee of at least five registered voters of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 120 [~~60~~] days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 11-2

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(2) The petition must contain the names of a number of qualified voters in the city equal to 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas as appears from the latest available county voter registration list.”

Recommendation: Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 11. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCES.

Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the city council in the form in which the petitioner desires the ordinance to be passed, by a petition filed with the city secretary in the following manner:

(2) The petition must contain the names of a number of qualified voters in the city equal to five [~~10~~] percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas as appears from the latest available county voter registration list.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: February 6, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XVIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 15. PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCES BEFORE ELECTION.

Whenever any ordinance or proposition is required by the Charter to be submitted to the voters of the city at any election, the city secretary shall cause the ordinance or proposition to be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city and published once at least 10 days prior to election.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 15. PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCES BEFORE ELECTION.

Whenever any ordinance or proposition is required by the Charter to be submitted to the voters of the city at any election, the city secretary shall cause the ordinance or proposition to be published in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city and published once at least 10 days prior to election.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER XIX. ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTON OF TAXES.

Current language:

“SEC. 7. TAX LIEN; LIABILITY FOR TAXES.

A lien is hereby created on all property, personal and real, in favor of the City of Dallas, for all taxes, ad valorem, occupation or otherwise. Said lien shall exist from January 1 in each year until the taxes are paid. Such lien shall be prior to all other claims, and no gift, sale, assignment or transfer of any kind, or judicial writ of any kind, can ever defeat such lien, but the tax assessor and collector may pursue such property, and whenever found may seize and sell enough thereof to satisfy such taxes.

In the event that personal property of the taxpayer is delivered into the actual or constructive possession of a receiver, trustee, or other person because of insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership or otherwise, between January 1 and the date that the taxes are actually levied, then and in that event the amount of the taxes due shall be the same as was levied for the prior year for the same property and shall be secured by a lien in that amount.

All persons or corporations owning or holding personal property or real estate in the city on the first day of January of each year shall be liable for all municipal taxes levied thereon for such year.

The personal property of all persons owing any taxes to the city is hereby made liable for all of said taxes, whether the same be due upon personal or real property, or upon both.”

Recommendation: Allow the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 7. TAX LIEN; LIABILITY FOR TAXES.

A lien is hereby created on all property, personal and real, in favor of the City of Dallas, for all taxes, ad valorem, occupation or otherwise. Said lien shall exist from the earlier of 30 days after the tax is due or January 1 of [in] each year until the taxes are paid. Such lien shall be prior to all other claims, and no gift, sale, assignment or transfer of any kind, or judicial writ of any kind, can ever defeat such lien, but the tax assessor and collector may pursue such property, and whenever found may seize and sell enough thereof to satisfy such taxes.

In the event that personal property of the taxpayer is delivered into the actual or constructive possession of a receiver, trustee, or other person because of insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership or otherwise, [~~between January 1 and the date that~~] before the taxes are actually levied, then and in that event the amount of the taxes due shall be the same as was previously levied [~~for the prior year~~] for the same property and shall be secured by a lien in that amount.

All persons or corporations owning or holding personal property or real estate in the city from the date the lien exists [~~on the first day of January of each year~~] shall be liable for all municipal taxes levied thereon [~~for such year~~].

The personal property of all persons owing any taxes to the city is hereby made liable for all of said taxes, whether the same be due upon personal or real property, or upon both.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XXI. BORROWING MONEY.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Establish a community bond commission.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. COMMUNITY BOND COMMISSION.

(a) Not later than 180 days before city council’s action calling a special election for the purpose of authorizing general obligation bonds, each member of the city council shall appoint one member of the community bond commission. The mayor shall designate the chair of the community bond commission, subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. Persons appointed to the community bond commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. In making the appointments, the city council and the mayor shall, as nearly as may be practicable, provide a total membership that reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the city’s population. Members of the community bond commission shall be appointed to serve a term that will end upon approval by council of the ordinance calling the special election.

(b) The chair may designate commission subcommittees to assist the commission and staff in identifying citywide and district-specific projects by subject matter. Subcommittee members shall be appointed by council with each council member nominating one member per subcommittee and the mayor appointing subcommittee chairs subject to the confirmation of the city council.

(c) Members of the community bond commission and its subcommittees may serve on another city board or commission concurrently with their service on the community bond commission.

(d) The community bond commission shall promptly convene in such sessions as are necessary. The community bond commission shall:

(1) Engage the community to receive input about the long-term capital improvement needs of the city through town hall and commission meetings, public hearings, polls, and various media engagements.

(2) Evaluate and discuss potential bond program projects consistent with the Capital Bond Program General Guidelines provided by city staff.

(3) Compile a list of recommended projects, approved by a majority vote of commission members.

(e) Upon completion of the approved recommended project list, the community bond commission shall file its final report with the mayor and the city council. The mayor shall present the final report to the city council within 30 days of receiving the report.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 26, 2024

Approved by vote of 8-6

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 2. CONTRACT LETTING.

(a) All city contracts calling for or requiring the expenditure or payment of an amount required by state law to be competitively bid creating or imposing an obligation or liability of any nature or character upon the city, must first be submitted for competitive bids in accordance with this chapter. Such bids shall be based upon plans and specifications prepared for that purpose. Notice of the time and place when and where such contract shall be let shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Dallas once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the time set for letting such contract, the date of the first publication to be at least 14 days prior to the date set for letting said contract. Such contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder.”

Recommendation: Broaden the city’s notification process to include other media options in addition to newspaper publication.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 2. CONTRACT LETTING.

(a) All city contracts calling for or requiring the expenditure or payment of an amount required by state law to be competitively bid creating or imposing an obligation or liability of any nature or character upon the city, must first be submitted for competitive bids in accordance with this chapter. Such bids shall be based upon plans and specifications prepared for that purpose. Notice of the time and place when and where such contract shall be let shall be published in digital and print formats pursuant to the city’s communication plan and language access policies and in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Dallas once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the time set for letting such contract, the date of the first publication to be at least 14 days prior to the date set for letting said contract. Such contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: March 4, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0, language amended

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 3. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF BIDS.

All bids submitted shall be sealed and shall be opened in a public place as directed by the city council, and in the presence of persons that may be designated by the city council, and shall remain open to public inspection for at least 48 hours before any award of said work is made to any competitive bidder. The provisions of this section regarding the retaining of bids 48 hours before awarding the work shall not apply to bids for the purchase of bonds.”

Recommendation: Delete the requirement for bids to be opened in a public place and in the presence of persons and remain open to the public.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 3. RESERVED. [~~PUBLIC INSPECTION OF BIDS.~~

~~All bids submitted shall be sealed and shall be opened in a public place as directed by the city council, and in the presence of persons that may be designated by the city council, and shall remain open to public inspection for at least 48 hours before any award of said work is made to any competitive bidder. The provisions of this section regarding the retaining of bids 48 hours before awarding the work shall not apply to bids for the purchase of bonds.]”~~

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 4. EMERGENCY SPENDING, ETC.

The provisions regarding competitive bidding shall not apply in the following instances:

- (1) In case of a public calamity where it becomes necessary to act at once to relieve the necessity of the citizens or to preserve the property of the city.
- (2) Where it is necessary to preserve or protect the public health of the citizens of the city.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 4. EMERGENCY SPENDING, ETC.

The provisions regarding competitive bidding shall not apply in the following instances:

- (1) In case of a public calamity where it becomes necessary to act at once to relieve the necessity of the residents [~~citizens~~] or to preserve the property of the city.
- (2) Where it is necessary to preserve or protect the public health of the residents [~~citizens~~] of the city.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XXII. PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

Current language:

“SEC. 10. CITIZENS GIVEN PREFERENCE IN LETTING OF CONTRACTS.

Qualifications, prices and quality of material being equal, citizens and business firms of Dallas shall be given preference in the awarding of all contracts over which the city has jurisdiction, direct or indirect. This section shall not be construed so as to conflict with any provision of the Charter requiring competitive bidding.”

Recommendation: Change wording in the charter to be more inclusive, using “resident” or “people” in place of or in addition to “citizen” in certain provisions.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 10. CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS GIVEN PREFERENCE IN LETTING OF CONTRACTS.

Qualifications, prices and quality of material being equal, citizens or authorized residents of the United States who reside in Dallas and business firms of Dallas shall be given preference in the awarding of all contracts over which the city has jurisdiction, direct or indirect. This section shall not be construed so as to conflict with any provision of the Charter requiring competitive bidding.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 14-0

CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 13. APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS.

(c) The mayor shall appoint the chair of each commission and board from among the members appointed in accordance with Subsection (b), subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council.”

Recommendation: Require city boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs in lieu of vice chairs being appointed by the full city council.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 13. APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS.

(c) The mayor shall appoint the chair of each commission and board from among the members appointed in accordance with Subsection (b), subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council. Each commission and board shall elect one of its members to serve as vice chair.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 23, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Current language:

“SEC. 17. BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS.

(b) A member of any commission or board appointed by the city council may be removed from office for any cause deemed by the city council sufficient for removal in the interest of the public, but only after a public hearing before the city council on charges publicly made, if demanded by such member within 10 days.”

Recommendation: Allow city council’s appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of the member’s term.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 17. BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS.

(b) Upon initiation of the councilmember who occupies the city council place of the nominating councilmember, the city council may, by a majority vote, replace a board or commission member prior to completion of the member’s two-year term. [~~A member of any commission or board appointed by the city council may be removed from office for any cause deemed by the city council sufficient for removal in the interest of the public, but only after a public hearing before the city council on charges publicly made, if demanded by such member within 10 days.]”~~

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: April 2, 2024

Approved by vote of 12-1

CHAPTER XXIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Current language: N/A

Recommendation: Add a provision to allow for an alternate deadline when the date for performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday.

Proposed language:

“SEC. 22. PERFORMANCE DEADLINES.

If the last day for performance of an act is a Saturday, Sunday, or national, state, or local holiday, the act is timely if performed on the next regular business day.”

Charter Review Commission Action

Vote: January 11, 2024

Approved by vote of 13-0

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DALLAS CITY CHARTER EXCLUDED FROM
CONSIDERATION BY THE 2024 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

<u>Citation</u>	<u>No/Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
II §2	1-23-24	In order to protect fundamental human rights, it is further defined that the bodies of the inhabitants (Sec 1) are not owned by the City of Dallas, and that people have the inviolate right to make their own health and body decisions so long as it does not interfere with the rights of another.
III	1-23-24	Enshrine the five-signature memo in the charter.
III §1	2-20-24	Expand the size of city council through the addition of single-member districts and/or at-large positions.
III §2	4-2-24	Authorize a limited power of veto for the mayor with a city council override of a 2/3 vote (bond elections and budget).
III §3A	2-20-24	Extend the term lengths of city council positions from two years to three or four years.
III §3A	2-20-24	Stagger city council terms.
III §3A	2-20-24	Prohibit future service on city council once four terms have been served.
III §3A	2-20-24	Extend waiting period from one term to two terms after serving the maximum number of consecutive terms.
III §4	3-26-24	Increase the annual salary of the mayor to 135 percent and councilmembers 100 percent of median household income of the Dallas/Ft. Worth/Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area.
III §4	3-26-24	Increase the annual salary of mayor and councilmembers to \$125k/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index.
III §4	3-26-24	Increase the annual salary of all council positions to \$100/year.
III §11	2-20-24	Abolish the appointment process of the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem.
III §11	2-20-24	Amend the appointment process of the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem to have the mayor select the officers instead of the city council.

III §11	2-20-24	Amend the appointment process of the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem to have the officers be elected by the voters as at-large city council positions.
III §13(b)	4-2-24	All each council committee to elect its own chair and vice chair.
III §14	3-26-24	Require that the director of the mayor and city council office be appointed by and report to city council and the mayor and city council staff be hired by and report to the director.
III §15	3-26-24	Grant city council the authority to confirm the hiring of all department directors and require a public hearing for each position.
IV	1-23-24	No later than the 90th day after an election for a seat on city council, a candidate or officeholder shall distribute the balance of unexpended funds received from political contributions, in excess of any remaining expenses for the election, in a manner compliant the law of the State of Texas. A candidate or officeholder who, after an election, has unpaid expenses remaining, or who has unreimbursed campaign expenditures, may solicit and accept political contributions after the election until the unpaid expenses are paid and the unreimbursed expenditures are reimbursed. An officeholder may retain up to \$30,000.00 of funds received from political contributions for the purposes of officeholder expenditures.
IV	1-23-24	Add new section establishing a “Democracy Dollars” program.
IV §3	2-20-24	Stagger city council terms.
IV §3	2-20-24	Move the election date from May of odd-numbered years to November of odd-numbered years or November of even-numbered years.
IV §5	4-2-24	Amend the vote requirement for council to modify the redistricting commission’s recommending districting plan from a 3/4 vote to a 2/3 vote.
VI §2	3-26-24	Grant city council the authority to confirm the hiring of all department directors and require a public hearing for each position.
VI §2	3-26-24	Require that the city manager’s appointments of the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department be confirmed by the city council.
VI §2	4-2-24	Require the city manager to seek and obtain the city council’s policy priorities before submitting the city manager’s annual budget and require the city manager’s budget to reflect those priorities.

VIII §4	2-20-24	Align the terms for municipal judges with the term lengths of councilmembers, should councilmember terms be extended from two years to three or four years.
IX §3	4-2-24	Establish an Office of Ombudsman within the function of the city auditor.
X §2	3-26-24	Grant city council the authority to confirm the hiring of all department directors and require a public hearing for each position.
XI	1-23-24	“The City of Dallas shall honor its obligations.” Please fund the Police and Fire Pensions, as promised and required by law.
XI §1	3-26-24	Add a required pension contribution to the charter.
XI §1	4-2-24	Require the city manager to seek and obtain the city council’s policy priorities before submitting the city manager’s annual budget and require the city manager’s budget to reflect those priorities.
XII	3-26-24	Require the city council, rather than the city manager, to appoint and remove the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department.
XII §1	3-26-24	Require that the city manager’s appointments of the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department be confirmed by the city council.
XIII	1-23-24	<p>To provide for the safety of citizens and firefighters, and to comply with nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association, it shall be the policy of the Dallas Fire Rescue Department to provide constant and adequate minimum staffing as defined below. The City shall maintain staffing of all apparatus with a minimum of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four (4) fire fighters, including at least one (1) fire-fighter/paramedic riding in a non-officer position, on all Engines. 2. Four (4) fire fighters on every Truck. 3. Two (2) fire fighter/paramedics or two (2) paramedics on every Rescue. 4. Two (2) fire fighters on all Operations Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief vehicles. 5. One (1) fire fighter/paramedic or one (1) paramedic on all EMS Shift Duty Officer vehicles. 6. One (1) fire fighter on all Operations Shift Safety Chief vehicles. 7. Not less than three (3) ARFF trained fire fighters per vehicle assigned to an aircraft or airfield. <p>These apparatuses may be temporarily reduced to three (3) persons, yet remain in active service, if a fire fighter assigned to</p>

work on an apparatus is: (a) off duty using departmental eligible leave for up to four (4) hours; or (b) is involved in any assigned departmental business, for up to (4) hours, including travel time all while maintaining the policies defined in the Daily Staffing procedure.

XIII	3-26-24	Require the city council, rather than the city manager, to appoint and remove the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department.
XIII §1	3-26-24	Require that the city manager’s appointments of the chiefs of the police department and the fire-rescue department be confirmed by the city council.
XV §2	2-6-24	Delete the section allowing the city council to provide urban conservation, rehabilitation, and redevelopment programs.
XV §3	1-23-24	Rename the Zoning Commission to the City Plan and Zoning Commission and allow that commission’s membership to contain a minimum of 15 residents.
XV §3	1-23-24	Amend the process for appointing the chair and members of the plan commission to reflect current practice.
XV §3	3-26-24	Provide members of the city plan commission with an annual salary of \$25,000.
XV §4	1-23-24	Materials discussed or presented in Planning commissions hearing should match what is published for public view 10 days prior to the meeting. If an item is held for a later hearing, all registered speakers should be notified. Registered speakers should be give at least 24 hour’s notice that their item will not be presented at the hearing. Planning commission hearing notices and materials should be made available in at least 2 languages.
XV §4(4)	2-6-24	Authorize administrative approval of plat applications.
XV §8	1-23-24	Remove the requirement to have a Thoroughfare Plan.
XVI §9	4-2-24	Prohibit the creation of jobs exempt from the civil service.
XVII §§1, 5	3-4-24	Require the Park and Recreation Department to report to the city manager instead of the Park Board.
XVII §5	3-26-24	Allow city council, rather than the park board, to appoint the director of the park and recreation department.
XI §2	3-26-24	Allow the park and recreation department’s budget be approved directly by city council.
XIX §2	1-23-24	Provide tax exemption for small commercial property owners.

XX §12	2-6-24	Exclude property owners 50 percent or below the AMI from charges associated with subterranean improvements.
XXIV §7	2-6-24	Allow for third-party consultants to perform Building Inspections and Permit Reviews on any new construction or renovation projects.
XXIV §13	2-6-24	Preclude board and commission members from endorsing any Dallas City Councilmember and prohibit any board or commission member from working on any Dallas City Council member's political campaign and prohibit any board or commission member from donating to any Dallas City Council Members political campaign.
XXIV §13	2-20-24	Align the terms for members of boards and commissions with the term lengths of councilmembers, should councilmember terms be extended from two years to three or four years.
XXIV §13	4-2-24	Require appointees to boards and commissions to reside in the council district of the nominating councilmember, while allowing for a 2/3 vote non-district exception.
XXIV §13(c)	4-2-24	Require that the mayor receive two councilmember co-sponsors for board and commission chair appointments.
Multiple	2-20-24	Change the city's council-manager form of government to a mayor-council form of government.
Multiple	2-20-24	City auditor, city attorney, and city secretary to report to the city manager instead of the city council.
None	1-23-24	Allow for streets to be honorarily named after someone without actually changing the street name. (city code)
None	1-23-24	Remove Article 2, Sections 9-7 through 9-10 (regulations requiring the wearing of bicycle helmets) from Volume 1, Chapter 4 (city code).
None	1-23-24	Remove the specific cost to transport a resident via ambulance from the charter and let it be determined from time to time by council. Additionally, raise the cost to transport non-residents to \$2,500 and increase it annually linked to CPI.
None	1-23-24	Revise the zoning code to: (1) Allow up to three housing units on all single-family properties, raising the one- and two-unit caps in place today. (2) Reduce the land needed to build a residence from 5,750 square feet to around 2,500 square feet. (city code)

None	1-23-24	Adjust “SEC. 36-6. LOCATION OF POLES AND OTHER FIXTURES” to specifically state that utility poles are NOT to be erected within a sidewalk, nor should they in anyway infringe on ADA compliance. Improperly placed poles must be brought into compliance within 60 days or face a fine of \$1,500 per month of noncompliance. (city code)
None	1-23-24	Chapter 36 needs to be amended to provide a sunset date for all utilities (power, telephony, etc.) to be buried throughout the city. It should also provide for a date in which no new utility poles can be placed and poles cannot be replaced. (city code)
None	1-23-24	The city shall annually report on progress in improving pedestrian, bicycle and electric vehicles under twenty miles per hour infrastructure and safety and establish specific goals for the expansion and enhancement of these transportation modes.
None	1-23-24	The Charter should reflect that city employees should be considered vital/essential workers who are required to work - in some capacity - when the city experiences crises like the February 2021 SnowMaggedon; other weather events; demonstrations; destructive protests; explosions, etc. The 13,000 employees should be considered like Army Reserves, ready and able to be deployed where staffing is most needed, and no matter what job you were hired to do.
None	1-23-24	The charter should reflect that the municipality is reachable 24 hours a day, in person, or by phone, internet, messaging, etc.
None	1-23-24	The Charter should require that the city manager, council, and mayor develop, oversee, and update frequently short-and long-term VISIONS for our city - always looking at least 5 years ahead. This rolling, ever-evolving Vision should be the result of input from citizens, the business community, and city officials. They must contain simple, yet measurable metrics; and citizens, should have the most “say so”.
None	1-23-24	The Charter should boldly state that the primary responsibility of city government is to provide quality, measurable, affordable, innovative BASIC city services (e.g Water, Sanitation, Code, 311, Libraries, Communications, DPD, Fire, Park & Rec, and other "outward-facing" services. Departments that do not provide direct benefit to citizens should be evaluated as 2nd and 3 tier priorities.
None	1-23-24	The charter should be amended to require that the annual Performance Evaluations of all department heads, the mayor, the city manager, ACMs and other direct reports to the mayor, city manager and council include a formal process that includes input from citizens, and that citizen feedback determine at least 50 percent of the evaluation.

None	1-23-24	The city should not have the municipal immunity.
None	1-23-24	Provide metrics for evaluating certain city officials.
None	1-23-24	Residents should retain the right to initiate amortization proceedings.
None	1-23-24	Adopt a Most Favorable Pricing policy for city contracts.
None	2-6-24	Add a requirement that the city adopt by ordinance a citywide bike plan.
None	3-26-24	Prohibit city council candidates from soliciting campaign contributions except during the 180 days prior to the election date.

2024 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

DISTRICT	Commissioner
1	David de la Fuente
2	Miguel Solis
3	Lisa LeMaster
4	Isaac Steen
5	Nancy A. Bernardino, Ed.D.
6	Honorable Adam Medrano
7	Stuart Campbell
8	Gregory Franklin
9	P. Michael Jung
10	Patti Clapp
11	Terry Lowery
12	Honorable Adam McGough
13	Marshall Mills
14	Angela Hunt
15	Allen Vaught (Chair)



Appendix C:

Voter Petitions for Charter Amendment(s)



PROPOSED DALLAS CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

That the Dallas City Charter is hereby amended by adding Sec. 15 to Chapter XI. "Priority of Excess Revenue" as follows:

- A. If at any time the total actual, accruing or estimated annual revenue of the City exceeds the total actual annual revenue of the prior fiscal year, the City Council shall appropriate no less than 50% of such excess amount, in compliance with Section 1 of Chapter XI of this Charter, to fund the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System – Combined Plan, in the amount directed by the State Pension Review Board and/or the City Council, whichever is higher. Any monies remaining shall be appropriated to the Public Safety Objectives described below in Section B.
- B. Public Safety Objectives:
 - 1. The starting combined salary and non-pension benefits, excluding sign-on bonuses, of the police officers of the Dallas Police Department are within the top five of all city police departments (as compared to the starting combined salary and non-pension benefits) in Dallas, Collin, Tarrant, Denton, and Rockwall counties with a population over 50,000, on a per officer basis; and
 - 2. The total number of full-time sworn police officers of the police department of the City of Dallas is increased to at least 4,000 and the ratio established of 4,000 officers to Dallas city residents as of the date of the passage of this Charter Amendment is maintained or increased going forward.
 - a. Any monies appropriated to this Public Safety Objective but not spent within the fiscal year shall be transferred to a sinking fund to fund this Public Safety Objective in the subsequent fiscal year.
- C. Any monies remaining after all Public Safety Objectives defined in this Section have been met may be reappropriated by the City Council.
- D. The City, on an annual basis, shall hire a third-party firm to conduct a survey to calculate the starting combined salary and non-pension benefits, excluding sign-on bonuses, of the full-time police officers of all cities in Dallas, Collin, Tarrant, Denton, and Rockwall counties with a population over 50,000, on a per officer basis, and report the findings to the City Council. The third-party firm will be required to certify in writing to the City that it used its best efforts to include responses from each city in Dallas, Collin, Tarrant, Denton, and Rockwall counties in the annual survey, and the failure or unwillingness of any city to participate in the survey shall have no impact on either (1) the City's and the third-party firm's obligations to complete and deliver the survey required by this Section on an annual basis or (2) the City's obligations under this Chapter.
- E. As used in this Section, "revenue" shall mean all revenue collected by the City that's use is not restricted to a limited purpose under State or Federal law, including, but not limited to ad valorem property tax, sales tax, beverage taxes, asset forfeiture funds, bingo fees, cemetery taxes, impact fees, interlocal agreements, internet payment and access fees, investments, court fees, open records fees, municipal development corporation sales taxes, municipal development district taxes, pro rata fees, public improvement district assessments, right-of-way fees, special improvement district fund taxes, street assessments, time warrants, user fees, venue taxes, donations, coin-operated machine taxes, drainage fees, hotel taxes, parking fees, franchise fees, enterprise funds, charges for services, admission fees, fines and forfeitures, operating transfers from municipally controlled entities, municipal enterprises, municipally owned utilities, municipally controlled districts, licenses and permits, and interest, but shall not include any debt proceeds taken on by the City, or any grants, appropriations or other revenue received from other governmental or non-profit entities (that weren't directly or indirectly initially provided to such other governmental or non-profit entities by the City).
- F. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Section is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of that section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Section, and to this end, the provisions of this Section are declared to be severable. This Section shall supersede the Dallas City Code to the extent there are any conflicts.

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE

FOR } SHALL THE CITY CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PRIORITIZE AN APPROPRIATION
 } OF YEAR OVER YEAR CITY REVENUE INCREASES FOR SPECIFIC PUBLIC SAFETY
AGAINST } OBJECTIVES INCLUDING FUNDING THE DALLAS POLICE AND FIRE PENSION
 } SYSTEM, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SWORN POLICE OFFICERS, AND
 } ENSURING THEIR PAY IS COMPETITIVE?

PETITION TO AMEND THE DALLAS CITY CHARTER TO PRIORITIZE AN APPROPRIATION OF YEAR OVER YEAR CITY REVENUE INCREASES FOR SPECIFIC PUBLIC SAFETY OBJECTIVES INCLUDING FUNDING THE DALLAS POLICE AND FIRE PENSION SYSTEM, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SWORN POLICE OFFICERS, AND ENSURING THEIR PAY IS COMPETITIVE.

To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dallas, Texas ("City"): We, the undersigned qualified voters of the City of Dallas, Texas, under Dallas City Charter Ch. II, Sec. 3 and Texas Local Government Code §9.004 hereby petition for an election to amend the City Charter of the City of Dallas, Texas, by adding to Chapter XI, Sec. 15, as fully printed on the back page of this petition.

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, TEXAS, MAY SIGN THIS PETITION. Please fill in ALL blanks that are NOT optional.

Date Signed	Signature	Printed Name	Residence Address	City/State/Zip	Voter Registration Number or Date of Birth	Email (optional)
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		

AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF DALLAS, BEFORE ME, the undersigned, on this ___ / ___ / ___ (date) personally appeared _____, (name of person who circulated petition,) who being duly sworn, deposes and says: "I circulated this petition. I called each signer's attention to the full text of the proposed city charter amendment printed on the back of this petition before the signer affixed their signature to the petition. I witnessed the affixing of each signature. Each signer freely provided all information required on this petition. The correct date of signing is shown on the petition. I verified each signer's registration status and believe that each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name is signed and that the corresponding information for each signer is true and correct." SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS DATE

(SEAL)

X _____

X _____

Signature of circulator

Signature of officer administering oath

 Title of officer administering oath

PROPOSED DALLAS CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

That the Dallas City Charter is hereby amended by adding Sec. 3 of Chapter VI, "Annual Community Survey and City Manager Performance Compensation" as follows:

SEC. 3. Annual Community Survey and City Manager Performance Compensation.

- A. The City Council shall provide the City Manager an opportunity to receive potential "performance compensation" of up to 100% of the City Manager's annual base salary for the preceding fiscal year, and which shall be paid based upon the results of an annual survey of residents described in this Section. Such "performance compensation" shall be included in the City Budget and funded each fiscal year as part of the City Manager's overall compensation, but performance compensation funds will be separate and distinct from the City Manager's salary and any other compensation included in the City Manager's employment agreement.
- B. The City Council shall annually conduct a community survey to be completed and published between January 1 and March 15.
1. The annual community survey shall minimally contain the same questions asked and utilize the same methodology used in the "City of Dallas 2023 Community Survey" performed by the ETC Institute.
 2. A minimum of 1,400 completed surveys should be returned with at least 100 from every City Council district.
 3. The following question shall be included in the annual community survey, "Please indicate the extent to which you think each of the following are an issue in the City of Dallas by circling the corresponding number below, where a rating of 4 is "Not a Problem," a rating of 3 is "a Minor Problem," a rating of 2 is "a Moderate Problem," a rating of 1 is "a Major Problem" and a rating of "Don't Know."
 - a. The issues surveyed shall be:
 - i. Crime
 - ii. Homelessness
 - iii. Litter
 - iv. Aggressive Solicitation / Panhandling
 - v. Infrastructure / Streets
 - b. after each of the above issues there will be the opportunity to mark "4 - Not a Problem," "3 - Minor Problem," "2 - Moderate Problem," "1 - Major Problem," or "Don't Know."
 4. Additional questions may be included in the annual community survey, as long as the entity conducting the survey, in its reasonable belief, indicates that the additional questions will not affect the answers to the questions required by this Section and provides written certification of such reasonable belief to the City Council.
 5. The entity conducting the survey shall conduct itself with complete impartiality to the outcome and shall provide written certification thereof to the City Council.
 6. Upon conclusion of the annual survey, the entity conducting the survey shall provide written certification to the City Council that, to their knowledge, no one has attempted to influence the conduct or outcome of the survey, or if such knowledge exists shall disclose the name and nature of the influence.
 7. The use of "push polling" language or techniques, or any other method that attempts to steer or influence responses, may not be employed. The entity conducting the survey shall provide written certification to the City Council that no such "push pulling" language or techniques were employed in the annual survey.
- C. If the City Manager has been on the job for at least 18 months as of January 1 of the current year, then based upon the published results of the survey in B(3) above:
1. If on all five issues no more than 30% of all responses are "Moderate Problem" or "Major Problem," then the City Manager will be paid 100% of the performance compensation.
 2. If on four of the five issues no more than 30% of all responses are "Moderate Problem" or "Major Problem," then the City Manager will be paid 50% of the performance compensation.
 3. If on three of the five issues no more than 30% of all responses are "Moderate Problem" or "Major Problem," then the City Manager will not be paid the performance compensation.
 4. If on two or fewer issues no more than 30% of all responses are "Moderate Problem" or "Major Problem," then the City Manager will be terminated within 30 days by the City Council and shall be ineligible for reappointment as City Manager for a period of ten years.
- D. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Section is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of that section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Section, and to this end, the provisions of this Section are declared to be severable. This Section shall supersede the Dallas City Code to the extent there are any conflicts.

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE

FOR } SHALL THE CITY CHARTER BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURVEY OF SERVICES OF THE CITY, AND BASED UPON THE RESULTS OF SUCH SURVEY, PROVIDE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CITY MANAGER, INCLUDING AWARDED PERFORMANCE COMPENSATION OR TERMINATION?

AGAINST }

PETITION TO AMEND THE DALLAS CITY CHARTER TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURVEY OF SERVICES OF THE CITY, AND BASED UPON THE RESULTS OF SUCH SURVEY, PROVIDE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CITY MANAGER, INCLUDING AWARDED PERFORMANCE COMPENSATION OR TERMINATION

To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dallas, Texas ("City"): We, the undersigned qualified voters of the City of Dallas, Texas, under Dallas City Charter Ch. II, Sec. 3 and Texas Local Government Code §9.004 hereby petition for an election to amend the City Charter of the City of Dallas, Texas, by adding Sec. 3 to Chapter VI. The City Manager, fully printed on the back page of this petition.

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, TEXAS, MAY SIGN THIS PETITION. Please fill in ALL blanks that are NOT optional.

Date Signed	Signature	Printed Name	Residence Address	City/State/Zip	Voter Registration Number or Date of Birth	Email (optional)
				DALLAS, TX		
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				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		

AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF DALLAS, BEFORE ME, the undersigned, on this ___/___/___ (date) personally appeared _____, (name of person who circulated petition,) who being duly sworn, deposes and says: "I circulated this petition. I called each signer's attention to the full text of the proposed city charter amendment printed on the back of this petition before the signer affixed their signature to the petition. I witnessed the affixing of each signature. Each signer freely provided all information required on this petition. The correct date of signing is shown on the petition. I verified each signer's registration status and believe that each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name is signed and that the corresponding information for each signer is true and correct." SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS DATE: _____.

(SEAL)

X _____

X _____

Signature of circulator

Signature of officer administering oath

 Title of officer administering oath

PROPOSED DALLAS CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

That the Dallas City Charter is hereby amended by adding Chapter XXV. "CITIZEN ENFORCEMENT" as follows:

SEC 1. RESIDENT ENFORCEMENT.

Any resident of Dallas has standing and may bring an action against the City of Dallas to require the City to comply with any of the provisions of this City Charter, any City ordinance or any law of the State of Texas.

- A. A claimant is entitled to recover in an action brought under this Chapter::
 - 1. declaratory and injunctive relief against the City; and
 - 2. costs and reasonable attorney's fees, if the court orders injunctive or declaratory relief [See Texas Citizens Participation Act and Uniform Declaratory Judgements Act].
 - B. The City's governmental immunity to suit and from liability is waived to the extent of liability created by the Charter, City Ordinance and/or Texas state law.
 - C. Claimants shall notify the City of their claim not later than sixty days before the date such claimant files an action under this Chapter. The notice must reasonably describe the charter provision, ordinance, or state law that the Claimant believes has been or may be violated.
 - D. "resident" shall mean any person who resides in the City of Dallas, and any firm, corporation, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, estate, nonprofit, or association which is physically located in or otherwise conducts business in the City of Dallas.
 - E. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Section is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of that section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Section, and to this end, the provisions of this Section are declared to be severable. This Section shall supersede the Dallas City Code to the extent there are any conflicts.
-

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE

FOR } SHALL THE CITY CHARTER BE AMENDED TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO FORCE THE
 } CITY OF DALLAS TO FOLLOW ITS OWN ORDINANCES, ITS OWN CHARTER AND
AGAINST } TEXAS STATE LAW?

PETITION TO ALLOW RESIDENTS TO FORCE THE CITY OF DALLAS TO FOLLOW ITS OWN ORDINANCES, ITS OWN CHARTER AND TEXAS STATE LAW

To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dallas, Texas (“City”): We, the undersigned qualified voters of the City of Dallas, Texas, under Dallas City Charter Ch. II, Sec. 3 and Texas Local Government Code §9.004 hereby petition for an election to amend the City Charter of the City of Dallas, Texas, by adding Ch. XXV. Citizen Enforcement, fully printed on the back page of this petition.

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, TEXAS, MAY SIGN THIS PETITION. Please fill in ALL blanks that are NOT optional.

Date Signed	Signature	Printed Name	Residence Address	City/State/Zip	Voter Registration Number or Date of Birth	Email (optional)
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
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				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		
				DALLAS, TX		

AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF DALLAS, BEFORE ME, the undersigned, on this ___ / ___ / ___ (date) personally appeared _____, (name of person who circulated petition,) who being duly sworn, deposes and says: “I circulated this petition. I called each signer’s attention to the full text of the proposed city charter amendment printed on the back of this petition before the signer affixed their signature to the petition. I witnessed the affixing of each signature. Each signer freely provided all information required on this petition. The correct date of signing is shown on the petition. I verified each signer’s registration status and believe that each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name is signed and that the corresponding information for each signer is true and correct.” SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS DATE

(SEAL)

X _____

X _____

Signature of circulator

Signature of officer administering oath

 Title of officer administering oath

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

Chapter XXIV of the Charter of the City of Dallas is hereby amended, to add a new Section 22, to be titled “Dallas Freedom Act” and to read as follows:

Sec. 22. DALLAS FREEDOM ACT.

- a. This policy shall be known as the Dallas Freedom Act.
- b. Pursuant to the home rule authority of the Texas Constitution, to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Dallas, Texas, the voters of Dallas hereby enact the Dallas Freedom Act, a policy to reform marijuana enforcement by City personnel, with the specific goals of carefully allocating scarce City resources, reducing the risk of discriminatory enforcement practices, and focusing City resources on the highest priority public safety concerns.
- c. Unless and until a binding act of a state or federal court requires otherwise, the Dallas Police Department shall not make any arrest or issue any citation for Class A or Class B misdemeanor marijuana possession, except in the limited cases described by this policy.
- d. In the event of a binding act of a state or federal court which would prevent the City of Dallas’s fulfillment of subsection (c), the City’s policy shall be to make enforcement of Class A and Class B misdemeanor marijuana possession its lowest enforcement priority. In particular, the City shall update its annual budget, police department manual, and relevant policies and procedures to ensure that public safety resources are not wasted on misdemeanor marijuana enforcement, and are instead targeted at other programs that best promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Dallas.
- e. This policy shall not limit enforcement of misdemeanor marijuana possession offenses if an offense is (a) revealed as part of a felony narcotics investigation that has been designated as “high priority” by a commander, assistant chief of police, or chief of police; (b) and/or revealed as part of the investigation of a violent felony. Dallas police officers shall not issue any charge for misdemeanor possession of marijuana unless it meets one or more of these exceptions.
- f. In any instance governed by this policy, if a Dallas police officer has probable cause to believe that a substance is illegal marijuana, the officer may seize the substance. If the officer seizes the substance, they must write a report explaining the grounds for seizure and release any detained person if possession of marijuana is the sole charge.
- g. A Class C misdemeanor citation for possession of drug residue or drug paraphernalia shall not be issued in lieu of a possession of marijuana charge.
- h. No City funds or personnel shall be used to request, conduct, or obtain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) testing of any cannabis-related substance to determine whether the substance meets the legal definition of marijuana under state or federal law, except (a) for purposes of toxicology testing to ensure public safety or (b) the investigation of a violent felony offense.
- i. Dallas police shall not consider the odor of marijuana or hemp to constitute probable cause for any search or seizure, except in the limited circumstances of a police investigation pursuant to subsection (e).
- j. The City Manager and Chief of Police shall ensure that (a) City policies and internal operating procedures are updated in accord with this policy and (b) Dallas police officers receive adequate training concerning each of the provisions of this policy.
- k. Any violation of this policy may subject a Dallas police officer to discipline as provided by the Texas Local Government Code or as provided by City policy.

- l. The City Manager, in consultation with the Chief of Police and other relevant City personnel, shall prepare quarterly reports concerning the implementation of this policy, to be presented to the City Council at a public meeting subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act, and with the first report due no later than 120 days following the effective date of this policy. Each report shall include a summary of the City's implementation of this policy and shall include specific information concerning enforcement of misdemeanor marijuana possession offenses, including total arrests made, total citations issued, estimated personnel hours used in conducting enforcement activities, and demographic information for each person charged with an offense, including age, gender, race, and ethnicity. Each quarterly report shall also be submitted to the Chair of the Community Police Oversight Board at the same time it is made available to the City Council.
- m. In the event that any court finds any subsection of the Dallas Freedom Act to be unlawful or unenforceable, that subsection shall be severed from this policy and the rest shall continue in force.

Petition for a City of Dallas Charter Amendment Election

Office Use
 Date rec'd: _____
 Logged by: _____

A petition to amend the City Charter of Dallas and adopt a "Dallas Freedom Act" policy that will decriminalize misdemeanor marijuana possession. Full text of proposed charter amendment attached. After signing, you may receive an updated voter registration form if your registration is not current.

FOR REGISTERED CITY OF DALLAS VOTERS ONLY

Date Signed	Printed Name: John Doe Signature: <i>John Doe</i>	Where you're registered to vote	County	Birthdate or Voter Registration No.	Phone Email
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____
__/__/2024	Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____	Street Address: _____ Dallas, TX Zip: _____		__/__/____ or No. _____	Phone: _____ Email: _____

<p>Mailing Address: Ground Game Texas 1808 S. Good Latimer Expy, Suite 102, Dallas, TX 75226</p> <p>Questions: triste@groundgametexas.org</p>	<p>Affidavit of Circulator (required): STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF _____, I, _____, a resident of _____ (street address), being first duly sworn, on oath depose and say the following: (1) I circulated the above petition; (2) the purpose of the petition was explained to each signer; (3) each signer freely provided all information required; (4) all statements made in the petition are true; and (5) each signature appearing thereon was made in my presence. _____ (signature)</p> <p>Sworn and subscribed to before me this ____ day of _____, ____.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Appendix D:

List of Amendments Eligible for Straw Voting on August 7



Councilmember-Submitted Amendments - August 2, 2024

Please enter the name of the Councilmember submitting the suggestion.

Please detail your proposed amendment. Be as specific as possible.

Please specify the location of the amendment to the Charter you are proposing by indicating the Chapter, Section, and/or Subsection that would be amended.

Please detail the rationale behind your proposed Charter amendment - why is it important the City adopt this amendment?

For City Civil Service employees appealing a disciplinary action, a Civil Service Trial Board or an Administrative Law Judge can hear an appellant. There is no fee if the appellant chooses a Civil Service Trial Board hearing. However, if an appellant chooses an Administrative Law Judge hearing, the appellant pays one-half of the costs attributed to having the Administrative Law Judge conduct the hearing. The fee is a flat \$400 daily fee, for which the employee pays \$200. If the hearing is longer than one day, the appellant pays \$200 for each additional day. If the hearing is not held, a refund is issued. The fee is set in the Dallas City Charter, Chapter XVI Civil Service and Personnel, Section 12.1 Administrative Law Judge, (b): A person who appeals to an administrative law judge shall pay one-half of the costs attributed to having the administrative law judge conduct the appeal hearing. (Amend. of 8-12-89, Prop. No. 10)

Charging a fee is a potential barrier to appellants choosing an Administrative Law Judge hearing. Appellants might choose the Civil Service Trial Board hearing instead. The fee charging increases the risk of limiting the appellant's access to Administrative Law Judge hearings.

A proposed remedy is an amendment to the Dallas City Charter. This amendment would change appealing employees from paying one-half of the fee for an Administrative Law Judge hearing to a progressive one, approved by the City Council, and based on an employee's annual compensation. This change aims to ensure that the fee structure does not disproportionately affect employees with lower annual compensation.

Chapter XVI Civil Service and Personnel, Section 12.1 Administrative Law Judge, (b): A person who appeals to an administrative law judge shall pay one-half of the costs attributed to having the administrative law judge conduct the appeal hearing. (Amend. of 8-12-89, Prop. No. 10)

To help ensure that the fee structure for a disciplinary action appeal does not disproportionately affect employees with lower annual compensation.

CM West & CM Willis