



City of Dallas

2024 Charter Review Commission Final Report

**City Council Briefing
May 1, 2024**

Allen Vaught, Chair
Chair, Charter Review Commission
Carrie Rogers, Director
Office of Government Affairs
Jake Anderson, Manager
Office of Government Affairs

Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Process Overview
- Commission Recommendations
- Next Steps



What is in the Charter Review Commission?



- 15 appointees tasked with reviewing the Charter and recommending amendments to City Council.
- Required by Charter every 10 years.
- Meetings began September 27, 2023.
- Suggested amendments were solicited between October 15, 2023 and January 19, 2024.



2024 Charter Review Commissioners



MEET THE MEMBERS



District 1
David de la Fuente
Term Start: 2024



District 2
Miguel Solis
Term Start: 2024



District 3
Lisa LeMaster
Term Start: 2024



District 4
Isaac Steen
Term Start: 2024



District 5
Nancy A. Bernardino
Term Start: 2024



District 6
Adam Medrano, Vice Chair
Term Start: 2024



District 7
Stuart Campbell
Term Start: 2024



District 8
Gregory Franklin
Term Start: 2024



District 9
P. Michael Jung
Term Start: 2024



District 10
Patti Clapp
Term Start: 2024



District 11
Terry Lowery
Term Start: 2024



District 12
Adam McGough
Term Start: 2024



District 13
Marshall Mills
Term Start: 2024

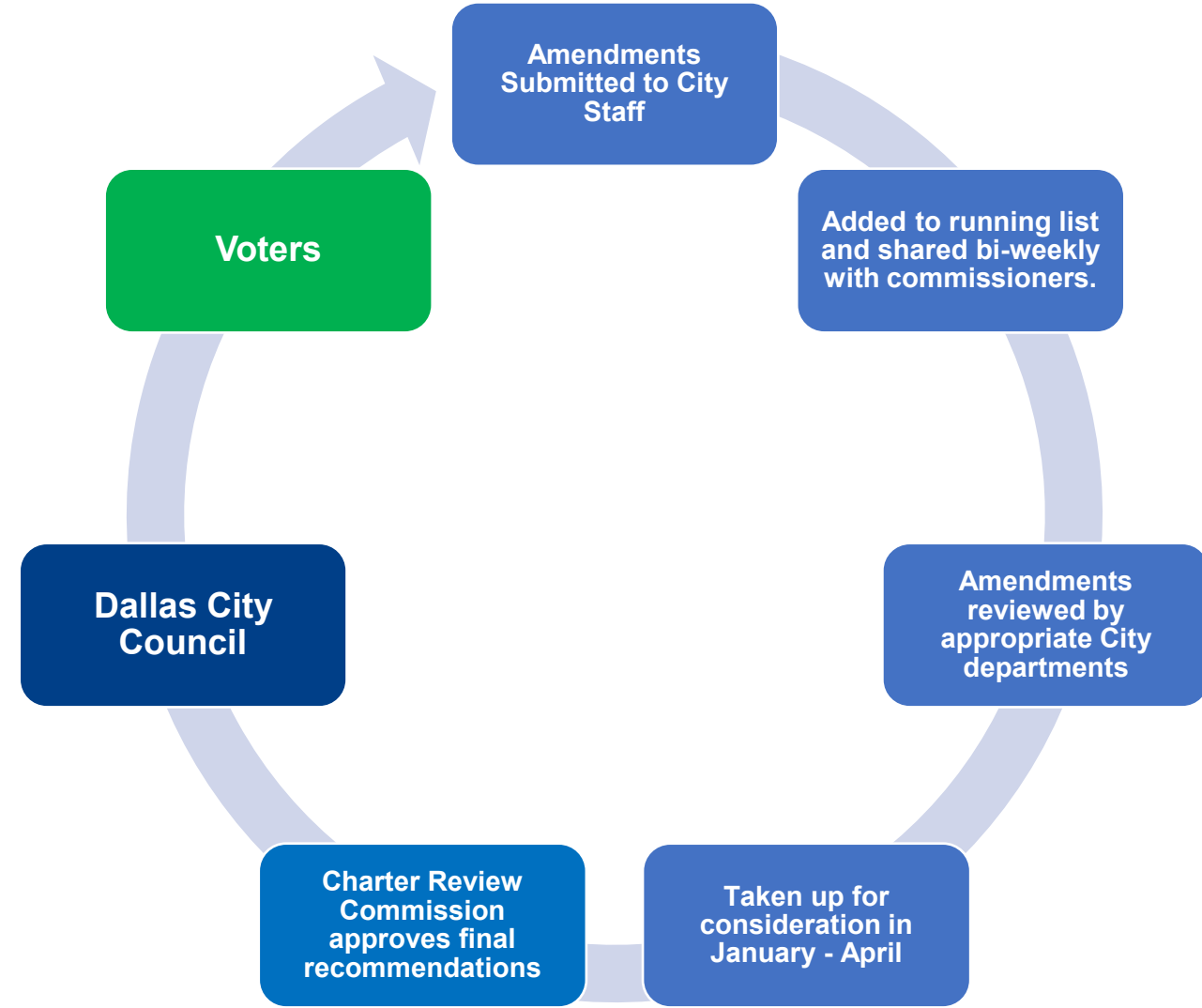


District 14
Angela Hunt
Term Start: 2024

District 15
Allen Vaught, Chair
Term Start: 2024



2024 Charter Review Commission Process



Communications and Outreach



- 20 townhalls across 11 council districts.
- Direct outreach and presentations to stakeholder groups.
- Bilingual teletownhall on April 1
- Earned media - 58 articles across 14 publications.
 - ❑ Estimated audience: 103.5 million
 - ❑ Estimated value of earned media: \$1.04 million



Public Website



View CRC Members

CHARTER REVIEW

The Charter of the City of Dallas, Texas (the "Charter") is the foundational document that outlines the structure, powers, and functions of our city's government.



Charter review resources

Submit amendments here

Overview

Members

Meetings

Resources

2014 Archive

View suggested amendments

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 3 of the Charter, the Charter "shall be reviewed by a commission appointed by the council." The Commission is responsible for reviewing the Charter and submitting a report to the city council no later than May 21, 2024. After receiving the Commission's report, the city council may adopt, modify, or disregard the Commission's recommended amendments and/or propose its own.

Strategic Priority

Government Performance & Financial Management

15 Members

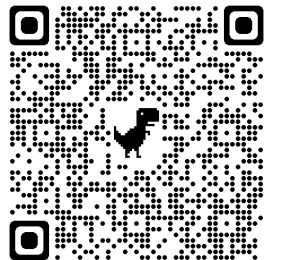
No vacancies

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Past & upcoming meeting info

Submit proposed Charter amendments for consideration [here](#) (en Español). You can view submitted amendments [here](#). To submit public comments, please email charterreview@dallas.gov.



Solicitation of Suggested Amendments



- On October 15, 2023, the Commission issued a call for suggested amendments to Councilmembers, City departments, and general stakeholders.
- Deadline for submission was extended to January 19, 2024.
- Every amendment was placed on a meeting agenda, except those withdrawn by the submitters.

Full list of suggested amendments can be found on the CRC website



Considered Proposals



- 125 amendments were submitted for consideration.
 - ❑ 12 amendments were withdrawn by submitters before being considered.
 - ❑ 78 amendments were considered and excluded from the final report.
 - ❑ 35 amendments were included as recommendations to the City Council.

[Full list can be found on the CRC website](#)



CRC Recommendations



- **Technical Amendments Included for Final Consideration:**
 - ❑ Eleven amendments recommended by the City Attorney's Office, City Secretary's Office, Civil Service, and Human Resources.
 - ❑ Clarify that, in addition to annual salaries, the mayor and councilmembers may also receive benefits for elected officials as permitted by law.
 - ❑ Change charter language to be more inclusive in certain provisions.



CRC Recommendations



- **Operational Amendments Included for Final Consideration:**
 - Allow boards and commissions to elect their own vice chairs.
 - Delete the requirement for bids to be opened in a public place.
 - Treat reorganizations and reductions in force in the same manner with respect to compensation and reassignment.



CRC Recommendations



- **Operational Amendments Included for Final Consideration:**
 - Require that special called meetings of council require five councilmember signatures rather than three.
 - Provide the city secretary and city auditor with assistants and employees.
 - Broaden the city's notification process to include other media options, in addition to newspaper publication.



CRC Recommendations



- **Operational Amendments Included for Final Consideration:**
 - Require that the Office of Community Police Oversight director be appointed by and report directly to the city council.
 - Establish the Office of Inspector General in the city charter with the Inspector General being appointed by city council.
 - Delete the provision prohibiting the city council from interfering with appointments and subordinates of the city manager.



CRC Recommendations



- **Policy Amendments Included for Final Consideration:**
 - Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect the required signatures on a petition from 60 to 120 days.
 - Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum.
 - Allow authorized residents to serve on Park Board, Redistricting Commission, Civil Service Board, and the City Plan Commission, not just citizens or registered voters.



What Amendments is CRC Considering?



- **Policy Amendments Included for Final Consideration:**

- Establish a Community Bond Commission.
- Add a provision triggering the implementation of ranked choice voting in municipal elections once the state law is amended to allow for it.
- Increase the annual salary for councilmembers to \$125k/year and for the mayor to \$140k/year, indexed to Consumer Price Index.



What Amendments is CRC Considering?



- **Policy Amendments Included for Final Consideration:**
 - Allow city council's appointments to boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to the completion of the member's term.
 - Add eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission.



Timeline



Action	Date	Source of Authority
Commission conducts meetings and public hearings	Sept 2023 – April 2024	
Last date for CRC to present report to City Council; 10-year date of 2014 report to Council	May 21, 2024	Dallas City Charter, Chapter 11, Section 3 (10-year anniversary of 2014 report to Council)
Last regularly scheduled meeting in spring 2024	REC'D ADOPTION DATE: June 26, 2024	Final opportunity for council to approve amendments prior to summer recess
Adopt ordinance ordering November 5, 2024 special election on charter amendments	RECOMMENDED DATE TO CALL ELECTION: August 14, 2024	Only regularly scheduled agenda meeting in August prior to August 19th deadline to call election
Uniform Election Date	Tuesday, November 5, 2024	Texas Election Code, Sec. 41.001(a)(3)





Upcoming Council Meetings for Charter amendment consideration.

Briefing / Straw Voting	Voting Agendas
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	Wednesday, June 26, 2024
Wednesday, June 5, 2024	
Tuesday, June 18, 2024	



Proposed Process



- Councilmembers will have until Wednesday, May 15 at 5:00 p.m. to submit their own suggested amendments for review. All amendments after that deadline must be made on the floor.
- The Council will cast straw votes on the Commission's recommendations in the final report on May 15 and June 5.
- June 5 and 18 meetings will be used to review and cast straw votes on any new amendments submitted by Councilmembers by the May 15 deadline.
- Possible special-called meeting dates, if needed: June 10, 11, 20, 24, 25.



Next Steps



- May 3 - Friday memo with process for submitting amendments to staff.
- Between now and the May 15 deadline, staff and attorneys will be available to assist in drafting amendments and to provide legal advice, as needed.





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