

City of Dallas General Elections

From May Odd-Numbered Years To November Odd-Numbered Years



City of Dallas

Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Affairs

November 6, 2025

Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
City Secretary's Office
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- November 5, 2024, Charter Amendment
- Texas Legislative Change Enabling Shift
- Policy / Operational Compliance
- Tradeoffs and Considerations
- Next Step
- Questions



November 5, 2024, Charter Amendment



PROPOSITION D

Removing Election Date from the Charter

Shall Chapter IV, Section 3 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by deleting the requirement that elections for members of the city council be held in May and instead be held according to state law and as designated by city resolution or ordinance?

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 according to state law ~~on the first authorized election date after March 1 of each odd-numbered year~~. If state law does not restrict election dates, the city council shall by resolution or ordinance establish an election date on a uniform election date in ~~May of~~ odd-numbered years. 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.

NOTE: Proposition D was approved by Dallas voters. There were 233,048 votes in favor (65.29%) and 123,915 against (34.71%).



Texas Legislative Change Enabling Shift



- 89th Texas Legislature passed **SB 1494** in 2025, giving political subdivisions the option to move their general municipal elections to the November uniform date in odd-numbered years.
- The bill was approved by both chambers of the 89th Texas Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025.
- Under SB 1494, a city must adopt a resolution by December 31, 2025, to make the switch.



Policy / Operational Compliance



Policy Task(s):

- Deciding *whether* to change election dates in compliance with SB 1494 requires **City Council action** (resolution).
- This is a **policy decision** because it impacts the structure and timing of elections, which is a fundamental democratic process.

Operational Task(s):

- If the City Council approves a resolution moving the election date (policy), the **City Secretary's Office Elections Division** (working with Dallas County Elections) will handle the **implementation** (i.e., preparing ballots, contracting with the County, notifying the public, adjusting filing deadlines, etc.).
- Those tasks are **operational/administrative** in nature.



Tradeoffs and Considerations



- **New term (take office/inauguration) date:** In accordance with City Charter, Chapter III, Section 1, the new term will begin the 3rd Monday in December. (December 20, 2027)
- **Term adjustments / holdover terms:** Current councilmembers will continue to serve in holdover status and be bound by attendance rules while in holdover status.
- **Council Officer term adjustments / holdover terms:** Before officer terms end in June 2027, council will need to decide whether to extend the officer terms or appoint new officers for the holdover period.
 - *Per the City Council Rules of Procedure, the city council shall elect a Mayor Pro Tem and a Deputy Mayor Pro Tem to serve one-year terms that expire on the first Monday following the first voting agenda meeting in June.*



Tradeoffs and Considerations (Cont'd)



- **City boards and commissions appointments:** Board members will have been appointed for new terms starting in the August before the November election.
 - *Per Charter XXIV, Sec. 13(a) “During August of each odd-numbered year, the city council shall begin the nomination process for all members of the commissions and boards...”*
- **Transition logistics:** Candidate filing deadlines, election calendars, coordination with other jurisdictions. (*estimated candidate filing deadline: August 16, 2027*)
- **General election day change:** general elections will be *held on Tuesdays* instead of Saturdays.
- **Runoff election date:** runoff elections will be held in December on a Saturday designated by the Secretary of State (Texas Election Code, Section 2.025)
- **Jurisdiction (entity) shifting:** polling locations, election judges, etc. will be determined by Dallas County. The City will no longer be able to select polling locations or judges.



Next Step



- An agenda item has been placed on the November 12, 2025 city council agenda for consideration
 - A 'simple majority' vote is required for adoption



Questions...



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