

Charter Amendment Proposals Submitted by Councilmembers

ID	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?	If you have language to suggest, please enter it here.	Amendment Category	Notes
1	Paul E. Ridley Extend the term lengths of city council positions from two years to four years.	Chapter III Section 1	Reduces burden on candidates to frequently raise funds to remain in office. Allows council members to focus on city issues and long-term projects, and follow through on them, instead of campaigning. Relieves burden on volunteers to work on campaigns every two years.		Policy	
2	Paul Ridley The mayor shall designate one member as chair subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council.	Chapter XV Sec. 3	1.This language change is necessary to eliminate confusion and align with the current practice and interpretation. 2.This language change clears up the confusion around the current wording and aligns with how it currently reads.	The mayor shall designate one member as chair subject to confirmation by a majority of the city council.	Operational	
3	Cara Mendelsohn Allow the mayor to select the mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem instead of the city council.	Chapter III, Section 11	City Council elections of these officer positions [Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem] are divisive and dictated by demographics. The current system allows for members to be selected that may not work in harmony with the mayor or each other. Allowing a mayor to select the officer positions would allow for trust and communication between these members, leading to more delegation of initiatives and public appearance duties, as well as policy consensus-building among councilmembers.		Policy	
4	Cara Mendelsohn Eliminate the ability for councilmembers and the mayor to return in those positions after serving the limit of consecutive terms.	Chapter III, Section 3A	Incumbents receive a significant election advantage of name recognition. Serving a maximum of 4 terms allows a Councilmember time to contribute significantly to the city. As a large city, there are many qualified Dallas residents who can serve as representatives of their district. Final term limits, meaning without an ability to return to the same office, prevent a concentration of power, allows for fresh perspectives, minimizes the risk of corruption, and fosters a more responsive political environment.		Policy	

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Cara 5 Mendelsohn	Amend the charter to require pension contribution language to the annual budget estimate	Chapter XI, Section 1	Dallas must fully fund the cost of employee benefits in the years that the liability occurs, not continue to partially fund the pensions and accrue large unfunded liabilities. It is the fiscal responsibility and duty of the city manager and city council to ensure debts are not delayed to future generations of workers or city residents.		Policy
6 Chad West	Amend the City Charter to move the City's general election date from May to November in odd-numbered years	i. Chapter III. Sec 1. – "...shall be elected for a term of two years..." ii. Chapter III. Sec 3.a. – "...two consecutive two-year terms..."	This amendment will provide financial savings for the city, improve voter turnout, decrease voter fatigue, and allow Council Members more time to focus on official duties.	Amend the City Charter to move the City's general election date from May to November in odd-numbered years, create four-year non-staggered term for Council Members, and limit the Mayor and Council Members to two terms. These changes shall take effect after 2026.	Policy
7 Chad West	Create four-year non-staggered term for Council Members, and limit the Mayor and Council Members to two terms. These changes shall take effect after 2026.	iii. Chapter IV. Sec 3. "...election date in May of odd-numbered years..."	This amendment will provide financial savings for the city, improve voter turnout, decrease voter fatigue, and allow Council Members more time to focus on official duties.	Amend the City Charter to move the City's general election date from May to November in odd-numbered years, create four-year non-staggered term for Council Members, and limit the Mayor and Council Members to two terms. These changes shall take effect after 2026.	Policy
8 Adam Bazaldua Carolyn Arnold / 9 Zarin Gracey	Add a preamble to the Charter Change in language related to newspaper notification			<a href="#">Yes; provided via word document</a>	Policy
Cara 10 Mendelsohn	As initially submitted by a resident to the Charter Review Commission: Strong mayor city form of government	Chapter IV; Multiple others	"The elected mayor should have the power to operate the city as this person is elected by the citizens of the city." - the resident's submission		Policy The language is originally from a resident's submission to the CRC
11 Adam Bazaldua	Allow the MPT to call a council meeting to order once a quorum is present if the mayor is not in the room (and DMPT if the MPT and mayor are not present, and city secretary if all three are not present)	Chapter III			Operational
12 Adam Bazaldua	Require the mayor to assign committees within 60 days of the date of inauguration – and if the mayor fails to fulfill this obligation in within the 60 days, councilmembers will continue to serve on their old committees (with a new councilmember serving in the place of someone who termed out or lost the election)				Operational

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13 Adam Bazaldua	Require the city council to ratify the mayor's appointments to council committees				Operational
14 Paul Ridley	Update and correct Associate Municipal Judge to reflect current practice:	Chapter VIII Sec.6	Update and correct provision to reflect current practice. Supported by Admin Judge Robinson.	Biennially in May of each even-numbered year, associate municipal judges shall be appointed by the council. The associate municipal judge will receive their assignment from the administrative judge or his/her 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 (4) months of appointment. Each associate municipal judge shall hold office for 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 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.	Operational
15 Eric Johnson	Would like for the Charter to allow for the Chief of Police to be under a contract.	Chapter VI. Sec 2 (1)	It puts Dallas at a competitive disadvantage to any municipality that is able to offer a police chief a contract.		Policy
16 Omar Narvaez	The Park and Recreation Department shall be funded by an allocation of 10% of all City of Dallas General Revenue funds	Chapter XVII, Section 9		<p>SEC. 9. <u>ALLOCATION AND DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS.</u></p> <p><u>The Park and Recreation Department shall be funded by an allocation of 10% of all City of Dallas General Revenue funds. This percentage of allocation may be modified for any pending two-year budget cycle by a 2/3 vote of the City Council.</u> All ad valorem tax funds and other funds appropriated by the city council for park purposes, and all sums received from other sources for park purposes, shall be held in the city treasury subject to the order and disbursement of the park and recreation board, and shall be paid out upon warrants issued by the park and recreation board signed by either the president of the board or the individual designated by the board and countersigned by the city controller.</p>	Policy

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17 Chad West	Amend the City Charter so that the term length for Municipal and Associate Judges is the same as the term length for Council Members.	Chapter VIII, Sec. 4	It is important for the term of the Municipal Judge to be the same as the term of the City Council given judges are direct appointees of the City Council. These amendment only need be considered if an amendment to change the length of council member terms passes.	Amend the City Charter so that the term length for Municipal and Associate Judges is the same as the term length for Council Members.	Operational
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