

000000DRAFT Charter Review - Subcommittee Report

Additional Proposed Charter Revisions

Resolution #	Proposed Amendment	Committee Comments
Changing the Election Date		
Resolution 20110428-048	Moving the date of Austin's municipal elections from May to November in odd numbered years	Committee discussed pros and cons and concluded needs further discussion by entire group.
Resolution 20110428-048	Moving the date of Austin's municipal elections from May to November in even numbered years	Council to address for 2012; Committee needs further discussion by entire group for beyond 2012.
Council Terms: Changing the length and staggering of terms		
Resolution 20110428-048	Changing the Terms of Office from three to four years	Committee discussed pros and cons and concluded this needs further discussion by entire group. Agreed that any items re changing terms should be in a separate ballot item.
Resolution 20110428-048	Reduce City Council term limits from three terms to two terms, and prohibit Council members from switching places for the purpose of avoiding term limits	RECOMMENDATION: Prohibit Council members from switching places to avoid term limits.
Resolution 20110428-048	Eliminating staggered city council terms	RECOMMENDATION: Committee agreed should keep staggered terms.
Resolution 20110623-94	Changing the Terms of Office from three to four years	See first item.
Resolution 20110623-94	Reduce City Council term limits from three terms to two terms, and prohibit Council members from switching places for the purpose of avoiding term limits	RECOMMENDATION: Prohibit Council members from switching places to avoid term limits.
Resolution 20110623-94	Require that vacancies on the City Council be filled within 120 days after the vacancy is created to conform to the Texas Constitution	RECOMMENDATION: Doesn't need to be on ballot because constitutional requirement. Important to limit ballot items where possible to avoid risk of nonpassage.

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Elections: Conforming to state retention schedule		
Resolution 20110623-94	Require that the results of every municipal election be retained per the State's retention schedule, by precinct totals, for each candidate	RECOMMENDATION: Agreed, but doesn't need to be on ballot. Important to limit ballot items where possible to avoid risk of nonpassage.
Campaign Finance		
Resolution 20110428-048	Increase individual campaign contribution limit for at-large seats (twice that of geographic seats)	Committee discussed pros and cons and concluded issue needs further discussion by entire group. Agreed that any items re contribution limit should be in a separate ballot item.
Resolution 20110428-048	Create a new 30-day fundraising period following regular, run-off, and special elections for the purpose of retiring campaign debt and funding officeholder accounts	Committee discussed pros and cons and concluded issue needs further discussion by entire group, but agreed that this should be in a separate ballot item.
Resolution 20110428-048	Increase the limit for officeholder accounts to \$40,000	Committee discussed pros and cons and concluded issue needs further discussion by entire group, but agreed that this should be a separate ballot item.
Resolution 20110623-94	Establish that campaign contributions for a run-off election may only be collected after the election day of the general election for which a run-off is to be held	Committee discussed pros and cons and agreed to discuss further.
Proposed Addition	Require disclosure of expenditure of corporate and union contributions	For further development and discussion by the entire group.
Proposed Addition	As condition of contracts over certain amount, corporations not allowed to contribute in City Council elections	For further development and discussion by the entire group.
Proposed Addition	Prohibit City Council staff from working on campaigns (like is required under state law)	For further development and discussion by the entire group.

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Proposed Addition	Disclosure of contributions when no bid related contracts come before council	For further development and discussion by the entire group.
Proposed Addition	Require disclosure of contribution in last 9 days before election	For further development and discussion by the entire group.
Proposed Addition	Ethics Commission should have jurisdiction over campaign finance provisions enforcement	For further development and discussion by the entire group.
Initiative, Referendum and Recall		
Resolution 20110623-94	Make the number of required petition signatures for initiative and referendum match the required number of petition signatures for city charter changes contained in State law	RECOMMENDATION: Agreed with this provision, but charter language should include actual number of required signatures, not just reference state law as that may change. Discussed adding language requiring ballot language for petition initiatives be written in factually accurate and neutral way.
Resolution 20110623-94	Establish a deadline for submitting petitions 60 days in advance of the final date of the final date on which the city council must act on a petition	RECOMMENDATION: Agreed that no basis for making this change.
Proposed Addition	Strengthen current language regarding voting on major revenue bonds	For further development and discussion by the entire group.
Proposed Addition	Strengthen current language regarding tracking compliance with comprehensive plan, if approved	For further development and discussion by the entire group.
City Council Meeting Schedule		
Resolution 20110623-94	Change stated frequency and location of city council meetings to conform w/ current meeting practices	RECOMMENDATION: Change not needed in the Charter. This is clean up item and should be separated from other items if included at all.
Changing reporting and management structure of certain City staff		

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Resolution 20110428-048	City attorney to report directly to council	Committee discussed pros and cons and concluded needs further discussion.
Resolution 20110428-048	City attorney to directly appoint deputy city attorneys if city attorney reports directly to city council	RECOMMENDATION: Committee favors, but would like more details as assuming this would mean that the city HR process would not apply.
Resolution 20110428-048	Council to directly appoint Council staff	RECOMMENDATION: Committee favors, but would like more details as assuming this would mean that the city HR process would not apply.
Resolution 20110428-048	City Clerk to directly appoint deputy clerks	RECOMMENDATION: Committee favors, but would like more details as assuming this would mean that the city HR process would not apply.
Resolution 20110428-048	City Auditor to directly appoint deputy auditors	RECOMMENDATION: Committee favors, but would like more details as assuming this would mean that the city HR process would not apply.
Resolution 20110623-94	Eliminate city council authority to appoint assistants to city clerk	RECOMMENDATION: Agreed not to go forward with this.
Changing Planning Commission Appointees and terms		
Resolution 20110428-048	Authorizing AISD board of trustees to appoint an AISD president representative to the planning commission and aligning planning commission term lengths with councilmember term length	RECOMMENDATION: Agreed with this language.
Ordinances		
Resolution 20110623-94	Require that the effective date of every ordinance be contained within the ordinance language	RECOMMENDATION: Agreed not necessary to make this change in the charter.