

Memorandum

To: Charter Review Committee

From: Subcommittee on Ballot Initiatives

Date: October 14, 2011

RE: Report of Subcommittee and Motion for Action

Motion: To recommend to the City Council to place on the ballot the following items, as seven distinct ballot items. The wording of the ballot items should reflect the subcommittee comments. The subcommittee is directed to work with staff to determine the ballot language to bring forward with these items in the recommendation to City Council:

Resolution #	Proposed Amendment	Committee Comments
Changing the Election Date		
1. Resolution 20110428-048 and 2. Resolution 20110428-048	Moving the date of Austin's municipal elections from May to November in odd numbered years	<p>RECOMMENDATION: Ballot Item. Committee agreed to recommend the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do not change staggered terms * Do not change term, keep three years * Do not change term limits, remain as three terms * Voters decide on May vs November for elections * Neutral, simple, clear choice for voters on ballot language * Ballot language allows individual to check May or check November, with explanation that checking November will result in elections in xxx years will be on the ballot with the Presidential election
Council Terms: Changing the length and staggering of terms		
4. Resolution 20110428-048 and 7. 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	<p>RECOMMENDATION: Ballot Item. Prohibit Council members from switching places to avoid term limits. Do not change term limits</p>

Initiative, Referendum and Recall		
10. 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: Ballot Item. Agreed with this provision, but charter language should include actual percentage 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.
Changing reporting and management structure of certain City staff		
13. Resolution 20110428-048 and 14. Resolution 20110428-048	City attorney to report directly to council City attorney to directly appoint deputy city attorneys if city attorney reports directly to city council	RECOMMENDATION: Ballot Item. Committee favors Combine with 14.
15. Resolution 20110428-048	Council to directly appoint Council staff	RECOMMENDATION: Ballot Item. Committee favors
16. Resolution 20110428-048 and 18. 20110623-94	City Clerk to directly appoint deputy clerks Eliminate city council authority to appoint assistants to city clerk	RECOMMENDATION: Ballot Item. Committee favors. Combine with 18
17. Resolution 20110428-048	City Auditor to directly appoint deputy auditors	RECOMMENDATION: Ballot Item. Committee favors