

2023-24 Suggested Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

The Charter Review Commission is reviewing amendments and voting whether to include or exclude them from a final list for consideration. These votes are not final. At one of its final meetings, the Commission will vote on each item that has been included for consideration and give final direction about whether to include it in its recommendations to Council. Amendments that have been excluded from consideration can be seen on the second sheet of this document, "Amendments Excluded." Please email charterreview@dallas.gov if you have any questions.

#	Inclusion Vote Info	Date Of Consideration	Suggested Amendment	Chapter	Section	Proposed By	I am submitting as a / on behalf of (select one):	Forum Proposed	Date	Category	Rationale	Notes
2	8-6	3/26/24	Substituting out language in Section 11 to switch City of Dallas away from a runoff system to a ranked choice voting system once state law permits. The substituted language is identical to what City of Austin put in their City Charter after vetting by their attorneys and approval by their voters.	IV	11	David de la Fuente	Commissioner	Email/Memo	9/21/23	Policy		CSO submitted revised language on 12/19/23
19	Include (13-0)	1/23/24	I would like to suggest that Board and Commissions be able to vote on and select their own Vice Chairs.	Do not know		Lane Conner	Resident/ Stakeholder	Online Form	11/2/23	Operational	Currently, the Council chooses these and it tends to turn political. The person that is best suited for the job should be chosen by their peers.	
22	13-0	1/11/24	Amend language "... On-By the 15th day of August..."	XI	1	Terry Lowery	Commissioner	Email/Memo	11/9/23	Technical	This would replace the word "On" with the word "By." Budget Estimate is presented at the CM's Budget Briefing on a Tuesday in August, almost never ON the 15th.	
35	13-0	1/11/24	Edit language: "No person shall be eligible as a candidate for member of council, Place 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, unless the person is at the time a bona fide resident of District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, respectively, has resided continuously in Texas for 12 months, and has resided within the district in which the person is a candidate for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot (election). Any person elected to a place representing a district must continuously reside in the district during that person's term of office. A candidate for member of council, Place 15, may be a resident of any portion of the city, must have resided continuously in Texas for 12 months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot, must have resided in the city for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot (election), and must continuously reside within the city during the person's term of office."	IV	6	City Secretary's Office	City Department	Email/Memo	11/29/23	Technical	The Texas Election Code requires a candidate for city council must have lived continuously in Texas for one year preceding the filing deadline for the election. [Election Code 141.001(5)(A)]	
40	8-6	3/26/24	ADD - Community Bond Commission The citizen group tasked with developing a recommendation to the city council should be comprised of a member appointed by each city councilmember, with the chair of the bond commission appointed by the mayor. The term will end upon completion of the bond commission's recommendation to the city council. Persons appointed should be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission.	NEW		Cara Mendelsohn	Councilmember	Online Form	12/4/23	Policy	The 2024 Community Bond Task Force was comprised of a person nominated by each councilmember, but they did not go through the standard background and approval process used for commissions, nor did they follow the Texas Open Meetings Act provisions. It is necessary for meetings to be posted in advance, recorded and available on the city website, and available for public input. When considering significant debt, the highest level of transparency and integrity should be employed.	
43	Include (13-0)	1/23/24	REMOVE the following language "All bids submitted shall be sealed and shall be opened in a public place as directed by the city council, and in the presence of persons that may be designated by the city council, and shall remain open to public inspection for at least 48 hours before any award of said work is made to any competitive bidder. The provisions of this section regarding the retaining of bids 48 hours before awarding the work shall not apply to bids for the purchase of bonds. (Amend. of 4-2-83, Prop. No. 1)"	XXII	3	Office of Procurement Services	City Department		12/7/23	Operational	This language is problematic to the confidentiality of procurements and it directly conflicts with the current procedures in our Terms & Conditions and AD 4-5 regarding the management and access to public procurements. Also this is language from 4-2-1983.	
45	13-0	1/11/24	Delete the phrase: "the city secretary is reasonably able to verify the truth of the affidavit of residency."	IV	6(c)(2)	City Secretary's Office	City Department	Email/Memo	12/11/23	Technical	This section is being recommended for deletion as the city secretary does not investigative ("fact finding") authority.	
58	Include (12-1) with language included for City Auditor, too	1/23/24	Edit language: "The city council shall provide the city secretary with such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary, and they shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the council. Any such assistant and employee may be discharged at any time by the city secretary. All powers and duties imposed on the city secretary may be exercised and performed by any assistant under the city secretary's direction."	IIIA	2	City Secretary's Office	City Department	Email/Memo	12/20/23	Operational	This edit in language is being recommended to allow the city secretary the ability to hire all staff on the basis of executive and administrative experience, and efficiency of work that they are to administer that is directly related to the duties of the city secretary office and council support.	
61	13-0	1/11/24	If the last day for performance of an act is a Saturday, Sunday, or national, state, or local holiday, the act is timely if performed on the next regular business day.	III	1	City Attorney's Office/City Secretary's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/24	Technical	Ch III, Sec 1 requires that "the city council members... shall take office on the first Monday following the 30th calendar day after the final canvass of the general election." No provision is made for weekends and holidays, such as Juneteenth, which can land on this deadline.	
62	13-0	1/11/24	Each member of the city council shall, in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by law, be at the date of election a qualified voter of the city, and shall not be in arrears in the payment of any taxes or other liabilities due the city related to holding office.	III	3	City Attorney's Office/City Secretary's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/24	Technical	Case law finding that a requirement that elected officials pay taxes and liabilities to be eligible to hold office might be rationally related to governmental interests unless those liabilities are related to the office held/sought	

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63	13-0	1/11/24	<p>A lien is hereby created on all property, personal and real, in favor of the City of Dallas, for all taxes, ad valorem, occupation or otherwise. Said lien shall exist from the earlier of 30 days after the tax is due or January 1 of [H] each year until the taxes are paid. Such lien shall be prior to all other claims, and no gift, sale, assignment or transfer of any kind, or judicial writ of any kind, can ever defeat such lien, but the tax assessor and collector may pursue such property, and whenever found may seize and sell enough thereof to satisfy such taxes. In the event that personal property of the taxpayer is delivered into the actual or constructive possession of a receiver, trustee, or other person because of insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership or otherwise, [between January 1 and the date] that before the taxes are actually levied, then and in that event the amount of the taxes due shall be the same as was previously levied [for the prior year] for the same property and shall be secured by a lien in that amount.</p> <p>All persons or corporations owning or holding personal property or real estate in the city from the day the lien exists [on the first day of January of each year] shall be liable for all municipal taxes levied thereon [for such year].</p> <p>The personal property of all persons owing any taxes to the city is hereby made liable for all of said taxes, whether the same be due upon personal or real property, or upon both.</p>	XIX	7	City Attorney's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/24	Technical	Revise Sec. 7 to address taxes that accrue on a monthly basis (such as the hotel occupancy tax) so that the city has a lien as they accrue as opposed to only having a lien as of January 1.
64	13-0	1/11/24	Appeal deadline should be amended to reflect 10 days, not 5.	XII, XIII, XVI	4, 9, 11(b)	City Attorney's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/24	Technical	This amendment will match the deadlines in the Personnel Rules.
65	13-0	1/11/24	Add "A probationary period served as a civilian employee will not satisfy the probationary period for a position in the sworn service with the police department and the fire-rescue department."	XVI	10(a)	City Attorney's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/24	Technical	This amendment closes a loophole with respect to probationary periods served by sworn members in DPD and DFR. Currently, the rules allow a civilian employee who has passed his or her initial six-month probationary period to subsequently become a police officer or firefighter without serving a new probationary period.
66	12-1	1/11/24	Change "registered voters" to "residents"	XVIII	11(1)	City Attorney's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/24	Technical	Buckley v. American Constitutional Law Foundation: A registration requirement was found to be not warranted, as that requirement cuts down on the number of persons who may circulate petitions.
67	Include (13-0)	1/23/24	I would like to propose that the Park Board Vice President be elected by the Park Board instead of the City Council.			Maria Hasbany	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/5/25	Policy	There is no amendment in the Charter but one would need to be added. The City Code dictates that all Committee Vice Presidents are selected by the City Council and an amendment would need to be added to the Charter to make an exception for the Park Board Vice President. The Park Board is set up to operate much like the City Council and has the ability and knowledge to best identify and elect their own Vice President.
83	14-0	3/5/24	<p>Establish the Office of Inspector General ("OIG") as a fully independent division of the City, similar to the City Manager, City Secretary, City Auditor, and City Attorney, thus providing the OIG with the independence that is needed to effectively operate and conduct investigations without interference and without the limitations actually and practically imposed by virtue of the OIG being a division of the City Attorney's Office.</p>	NEW		Timothy E. Powers for and on behalf of the City of Dallas Ethics Reform Task Force	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	<p>"The proposed amendment follows the original intent of the Task Force Report. At the time of the Council's unanimous adoption and implementation of the recommendations made in the Task Force Report in December 2021, it was determined that an amendment to the City Charter would be required to establish the OIG as a new independent division, and that such Charter amendment proposal could be most efficiently done as part of the work of the 2023-2024 Charter Review Commission. This proposal follows that plan. Of course, the proposed amendment does require the approval and recommendation of the Charter Review Commission and the City Council before being presented to voters for approval. As an interim solution, it was determined that the OIG could best be placed as a division of the City Attorney's Office.</p> <p>Moving the OIG to an independent division of the city under the Charter provides the following benefits that are essential to ensure fair results and build public confidence, and they also adhere to best practices under Green Book Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maximizes independence and eliminates conflicts of interests for the operations, programs, policies, and procedures over which the OIG has authority. -Frees the OIG from interference in investigating cases that can occur when the OIG is under the supervision of another body. -Allows the OIG to fully exercise its jurisdiction for investigation of fraud and corruption that could be impaired by competing interests if the OIG is under the supervision of another body. -Ensures the confidentiality of the OIG investigation process. -Independence creates a real and perceived deterrent. <p>Peer cities that have recently established their own offices of inspector general, like Atlanta, Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia, follow these standards. In implementing this proposal, we will protect the integrity of the OIG and instill the trust and confidence of our citizens in the OIG.</p> <p>A detailed proposal can be presented to the Charter Review Commission at the appropriate time.</p>
90	Include (13-0)	2/6/24	Ch. XVI, Sec. 3(b)(1) [discussing who is part of unclassified service] Should state, "and other managerial personnel as designated by city council [rules of the board]."	XVI	3(b)(1)	Civil Service	City Department	Online Form	1/18/24	Policy	Conflicts with other provisions.

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		2/6/24	"Eliminate subsections §§ 6(b), (d). Add § 6(c)(3): (2) removal or reduction for cause under standard civil service hearing and appeal procedures; or (3) departmental reorganization."	XVI	6(b)-(d)	Civil Service	City Department	Online Form	1/18/24	Policy	Reorganizations and reductions in force should be treated the same with respect to compensation and reassignment.
91	Include (13-0)										
94	Include (7-6)	2/6/24	Change language in each section relating to eligibility for appointees all Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces away from "citizen", to "residents", "people", or "persons".	Multiple		Stuart Campbell	Commissioner	Online Form	1/18/24	Technical	Similar to CM Moreno's Amendment and Amendment 66 (which we've already approved), this is to allow the non-citizens residents of Dallas to serve as appointees on Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces.
97	12-1	3/26/24	"Like Amendment 7 already proposed: Council Salary at \$125K, but separate mayor at \$140k"	III	4	Stuart Campbell	Commissioner	Online Form	1/18/24	Policy	With the current salary of \$60k, only independently wealthy folks are able to run for office. For a more diverse and representative council, salary should be significantly raised (1) to allow non-rich folks the ability to serve their city and (2) so the salary is commiserate with the job duties of city councilpersons. The reason for separating mayor and council salaries is because that's how it's been historically, and the mayor does have some, though limited, added responsibilities.
101	AS AMENDED (11-2)	3/26/24	I am proposing the COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD & OFFICE to report directly to the Dallas City Council, grant full authority to the oversight office, and amend the charter to grant complete oversight.			Minister Dominique Alexander	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	To increase transparency to the city council and the public about the affairs of the Dallas Police Department
106	Include (12-1)	2/6/24	Propose the following edits: "It shall be the duty of the human resources department [board, in the code of rules and regulations approved by the council,] to recommend personnel rules to be adopted by city council that governing evaluation of conduct and performance and require[ing] remedies for nonperformance for positions in the civil service."	XVI	7	Human Resources	City Department	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	In practice, the Human Resources Department fulfills this role.
107	Include (13-0)	2/6/24	"Should state, "and other managerial personnel as designated by city council [rules of the board]."	XVI	3(b)	Human Resources	City Department	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	Conflicts with other provisions. In addition to resolving the conflict with other provisions, this amendment empowers the City Council to explicitly designate the managerial and confidential positions that fall within or outside the scope of Civil Service rules.
109		3/26/24	Correct any areas where City Councilmembers are excluded from earned or accruing benefits due to a classification for employment purposes as official verses an employee.	Multiple		Adam McGough	Commissioner	Online Form	1/19/24	Technical	When city employees later serve in public offices, vested benefits should be allowed to accrue as long as the city is paying the person's salary.
110	14-0	3/5/24	Insert the language "and or digital format" after newspaper to read as follows: Whenever any ordinance or proposition is required by the Charter to be submitted to the voters of the city at any election, the city secretary shall cause the ordinance or proposition to be printed in a newspaper and or digital format of general circulation in the city and published once at least 10 days prior to election.	XVIII	15	Marshall Mills	Commissioner	Online Form	1/19/24	Technical	My concern is the physical paper will not exist in several years so there needs to be language to include digital circulation.
114	Include (11-2)	2/6/24	Extend the time a petitioner has to collect signatures for an initiative or referendum from 60 to 120 days.	XVIII	11	Angela Hunt	Commissioner	Email/Memo	1/19/24		It is nearly impossible for a grassroots group to collect the required number of petition signatures within 60 days. This unrealistic time constraint deprives the public of the only means of proposing legislation outside the City Council process.
115	Include (13-0)	2/6/24	Reduce the number of signatures required on a petition in support of holding a referendum from 10% of all registered voters in the city to 5%.	XVIII	11	Angela Hunt	Commissioner	Email/Memo	1/19/24		The current standard is excessive and impairs the ability of the public to seek a referendum. The proposed change to 5% sets a high, but achievable, threshold.
118	14-0	3/5/24	"Change to: ""shall be published in one or more local news publications, digital and/or print"" Also suggest: ""in English and Spanish"" and ""communicated through city information channels, including the city website"" Especially for zoning cases, charter language should direct communication to people living in the impacted area."	XV	4(3)	Keri Mitchell	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	A "newspaper of general circulation" no longer exists in our city, and many Dallas residents are left out of civic processes because public notices aren't reaching them in a timely and inclusive manner. If the goal of these charter sections is to deliver crucial civic information to as many impacted residents and voters as possible, we need new, intentional and equitable methods.

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119	14-0	3/5/24	"Change to: published in one or more local news publications to reach a wide and diverse range of Dallas residents Also suggest: in English and Spanish; and communicated through city information channels, including the city website"	Multiple		Keri Mitchell	Resident/Stakeho	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	A single "newspaper of general circulation" no longer exists in our city, and many Dallas residents are left out of civic processes because public notices aren't reaching them in a timely and inclusive manner. If the goal of these charter sections is to deliver crucial civic information to as many impacted residents and voters as possible, we need new, intentional and equitable methods.	Initial vote failed 7-7; a motion to reconsider led to the 8-6 vote
120	14-0	3/5/24	"Chapter VX The comprehensive land use plan doesn't help property owners with ""alleviation or prevention of slums, obsolescence, blight or other conditions of urban deterioration; and (2) the achievement of the most appropriate use of land."" What it has done is approved gentrification of legacy black and brown communities. What happens to the funding that is allocated to assist with these needs. Public notification throughout city charter: The process used to inform the public as noted in the current charter is outdated. Notification should use mail outs, or local news outlets. Social media can be an option also."			Paula Hutchison	Resident/Stakeho	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	It's important to inform the public because we are the people that live in this city, raise our children, pay taxes, purchase our homes and businesses.	(will require amendments elsewhere also)
123	Include (7-6)	2/6/24	"Chapter III SEC. 7. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings shall be called by the city secretary upon the written request of the mayor, the city manager or FIVE members of the council. Any such notice shall state the subject to be considered at the special meeting and may provide for the taking up of any other matters presented at such meeting."	III	7	Scott Goldstein	Resident/Stakeho	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	This three member threshold exists from when the City Council was nine members. It should be updated to reflect 1/3 of the current 15-member body and align with the existing five signature method of requesting an item for council agenda or briefing.	