

2023-24 Suggested Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

#	Commission wishes to engage further?	Suggested Amendment	Chapter	Section	Proposed By	I am submitting as a / on behalf of (select one):	Forum Proposed	Date	Category (by Submitter)	Rationale	Could Result in Litigation?	Better Served Through Internal Dept. Policy or Amendment to Code?	Considered previously?	Simple for Voters to Understand	Amendment Complete?	Notes			
1		CM Moreno has asked if it was possible to change the wording in the city charter to be more inclusive and use "resident" or "people".	Mult		Jesse Moreno	Councilmember	Email/Memo	8/25/23	Technical										
2		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										
3		Moving election date to November in odd-numbered years	IV	3	David de la Fuente	Commissioner	Call	9/21/23	Policy										
4		Allow City Plan Commission to contain "a minimum of 15 members"			Planning and Urban Design (CUD)	City Department		9/27/23		The proposed City Charter amendment is aimed to allow flexibility for a potential change of strategy for the CPC composition and organization. And it is the first necessary step that is an enabler of potential changes. The proposal enables reconsideration of CPC composition to increase flexibility as to ease the "burden" for a more equitable outcome. The proposal stems from equity lenses, recognizing the amount of effort, time, and attention that the work of a CPC commissioner requires and to make this role more attainable and attractive for an equitable representation. The proposal is also considering the current work for Forward Dallas and the Development Code Reform that aims at rethinking/reforming the planning and zoning apparatus for Dallas and especially the amount of work and effort that CPC and its subcommittees will need for these additional tasks. Additionally, we aim to also acknowledge that the work of CPC may change in the future due to the outcome of such reforms. Possible options could be additional places for alternates, at large or by district, all appointed by City Council; specialized professional members, ex-officio members as needed and decided by the City Council. Any changes to the City Charter will not automatically trigger changes to the current composition and operation of CPC. (Separate action for amendments to all the other applicable provisions of the city code and Rules of Procedure following the normal public hearing process will be needed if such changes are considered.) Other cities, in Texas and nationwide, provide a wide array of examples on how CPC composition and organization can be adjusted based on current needs.									
5		4-yr council terms, not staggered	III	1	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Operational	a. The 2 year terms create huge swaths of the elected terms where the council member is too timid b. Staggering is a bad idea bc it will reduce turnout c. Can't move the elections to November bc of state law									
6		Expand council to 20-1	III	1	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Policy	a. Takes district population back to almost exactly what it was when 14-1 was enacted b. Makes it far easier to draw diverse districts c. Gives more power to the People									
7		\$125k/yr council pay indexed to CPI	III	4	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Policy										
8		Abolish council officer positions	III	11	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Technical	a. These have been utterly powerless by law since 2014 b. They need to ensure council can't form coalitions									
9		Delete everything about not interfering or communicating with staff	III	15	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Policy	a. No one follows it b. It would hamstring council									
10		Enshrine the 5-signature memo in the Charter	III	21 (new section)	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Operational										
12		Council direct hires police and fire chiefs	XII/XIII		Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Policy							(will require amendments elsewhere also)			
13		Clarify that council appointments are at-will	XXIV	13 and 17	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Operational							(I think council rules say this already, but CAO wrote a memo saying otherwise)			
14		\$25k/yr for CPC members	XXIV	new	Philip Kingston/PUD	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Policy										
15		Beef up civil service	XVI		Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/23	Policy	a. Probably by changing definitions in Charter b. Maybe a prohibition on creating exempt jobs									
17		The City of Dallas conducts its council and mayoral on a three year staggered cycle and change the term limits to (3) three year terms.	III	5	Randall Bryant	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	10/19/23	Policy	This amendment will extend council representation limits by one year while reducing respective council elections by one cycle.									
18		Prohibition of residents concurrently serving on City of Dallas Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces	XXIV	17	Randall Bryant	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	10/25/23	Policy	Our current charter only prohibits residents from concurrently serving on official boards and commissions, this provision needs to be extended to all city committees and task forces as well.									
19		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.									
20		To provide for the safety of citizens and firefighters, and to comply with nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association, it shall be the policy of the Dallas Fire Rescue Department to provide constant and adequate minimum staffing as defined below. The City shall maintain staffing of all apparatus with a minimum of: 1. Four (4) fire fighters, including at least one (1) fire-fighter/paramedic riding in a non-officer position, on all Engines. 2. Four (4) fire fighters on every Truck. 3. Two (2) fire fighters/paramedics or two (2) paramedics on every Rescue. 4. Two (2) fire fighters on all Operations Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief vehicles. 5. One (1) fire fighter/paramedic, or one (1) paramedic on all EMS Shift Duty Officer vehicles. 6. One (1) fire fighter on all Operations Shift Safety Chief vehicles. 7. Not less than three (3) AFFF trained fire fighters per vehicle assigned to an aircraft or airfield. These apparatuses may be temporarily reduced to three (3) persons, yet remain in active service, if a fire fighter assigned to work on an apparatus is: (a) off duty using departmental eligible leave for up to four (4) hours, or (b) is involved in any assigned departmental business, for up to (4) hours, including travel time at while maintaining the policies defined in the Daily Staffing procedure.	XIII		Jim McDade, DFPA	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	11/6/23	Operational	This amendment would codify how the daily staffing is done on all fire apparatus in Dallas. The rational is outlined in the National Fire Protection standards that we follow when it comes to response times and how apparatus respond.	YES					DFR has indicated that this is an operational decision best made by the Chief. This could possibly be in something like the Meet and Confer agreement, but would not be best served as a Charter amendment.			
21		3-year terms for Councilmembers, 3-term limit, including Mayor.	III	5	Lisa LeMaster	Commissioner	Email/Memo	11/6/23	Policy										
22		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 City's Budget Briefing on a Tuesday in August, almost never ON the 15th.									
24		Remove Article 9, the requirement to have a Thoroughfare Plan, from the charter.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/23	Policy	In its current form, the thoroughfare plan is too restrictive and is used by city staff to slow walk badly needed changes to streets to make them safer for all users. Due to the thoroughfare plan, lanes cannot be made narrower, lanes cannot be reduced, and other changes are impossible without a full ordinance from council.	YES					Thoroughfare plan is found in Ch 15, Sec 8 of the Charter.			
25		If Article IX is to be kept, amend street naming to allow for streets to be honorarily named after someone without actually changing the street name.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/23	Policy	Changing street names as often as Dallas does places both a direct and indirect cost burden to citizens (updating official documents, updating government IDs, etc.). By providing an honorary street naming program, the city can still honor people without placing further burden on citizens.	YES					This is a Code amendment, not Charter			
26		Remove Article 2 section 9-7 through 9-10 (regulations requiring the wearing of bicycle helmets) from Volume 1, Chapter 4.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/23	Policy	It is not enforced uniformly, and is only used to harass.	YES					This is a Code amendment, not Charter			
27		Remove the specific cost to transport a resident via ambulance from the charter and let it be determined from time to time by council. Additionally, raise the cost to transport non-residents to \$2,500 and increase it annually linked to CPI.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/23	Operational	Prices for services should change from time to time and shouldn't require an election to vote on amendment. Council should be able to affect these prices with simple majority vote.	YES					This is a Code amendment, not Charter			
28		Revise the zoning code to: 1) Allow up to three housing units on all single-family properties, raising the one- and two-unit caps in place today 2) Reduce the land needed to build a residence from 5,750 square feet to around 2,500 square feet.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/23	Policy	We need more housing and the current regulations do not allow for density of residential housing needed. If we keep the current policy in place, homelessness will continue unabated and housing affordability will continue to worsen.	YES					This is a Code amendment, not Charter			

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28	Adjust "SEC. 36.6. LOCATION OF POLES AND OTHER FIXTURES" to specifically state that utility poles are NOT to be erected within a sidewalk, nor should they in anyway infringe on ADA zones. Improperly placed poles must be brought into compliance within 60 days or face a fine of \$1,500 per month of noncompliance.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/23	Policy	The charter needs to explicitly state that utility poles cannot interfere with mobility and must comply with ADA regulations. There must also be an enforcement mechanism otherwise Oncor, and others, will never bring their poles into compliance.	YES					This is a Code amendment, not Charter
30	Chapter 36 needs to be amended to provide a sunset date for all utilities (power, telephony, etc) to be buried throughout the city. It should also provide for a date in which no new utility poles can be placed and poles cannot be repaired.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/23	Policy	Utility poles are an eyesore but also a huge impedence for mobility throughout the city. This would clear our sidewalks and also enhance the city. They would also greatly improve the resiliency of our grid during weather extremes as no trees would fall on power lines.	YES					This is a Code amendment, not Charter
32	The compensation of the City Council to the median household income of the Dallas-Fort Worth/Arlington metropolitan area as determined from time to time, and to be compensation of the Mayor to 130% of that amount.	III	4	P. Michael Jung	Commissioner	Email/Memo	11/27/23	Policy	Fixed salaries are eroded by inflation Periodic adjustment requires multiple charter elections Fixed salaries have no objective benchmark Are Council/Mayor currently undercompensated?						
35	Ed: 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 (hereinafter "residence requirement"). 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 (hereinafter "residence requirement"). Any person elected to a place representing a district must continuously reside in the district during that 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)]						CSO submitted revised language on 12/19/23
36	If the Charter Review Commission recommends changing City Council terms, this section should be modified. "During August of each odd-numbered year, the city council shall begin the nomination process for all members of the commissions and boards provided for in this Charter or which the city council may provide for by ordinance. Such members shall serve for a term as provided by ordinance by the city council not to exceed two years from October 1 by the Charter Review Commission or until their successors are appointed and qualified, except that a member of a board or commission that is only advisory in nature may not hold over in his or her position longer than nine months after the expiration of his or her term or after the creation of a vacancy in his or her position."	XXIV	13	City Secretary's Office	City Department	Email/Memo	11/29/23	Policy	This section should be modified based on if the Charter Review Commission recommends changing City Council terms.						
37	Establish an Office of Ombudsman within the function of the City Auditor.			Marcus Wood	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	12/1/23	Policy	Such functions are found in many entities, private and public. There are such in North Texas (Tollway Authority) and several municipalities. There is a United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) https://www.usombudsman.org/ , and I can provide contacts willing to address the Commission. The organization has model legislation suitable for use in a charter. These ombudsman activities exist elsewhere including cities such as Lincoln, Nebraska, Detroit, Portland, Oregon, New York, Los Angeles. Currently in Dallas there is too much "passing the hot potato" and closing 311 Service Requests without the need being properly addressed and completed -- and one better not be in an eastern-most District 8 like old Kober. All too often that tail end of Dallas outside of IH 635 south of Barkin Springs and Seagoville is treated as a forgotten town because it is just out there, very low income, Hispanic, Black, and Whites, with many mobile homes and older housing. I am attaching two current 311 Service Requests that still have not be addressed, simply as examples. Dallas Citizens need the support and expertise of the Ombudsman, and Council needs such to insure responsibility and accountability.						
38	Remove the words "until at least one term has elapsed" from the description of Councilmember terms.	III	3a	Cara Mendelsohn	Councilmember	Online Form	12/4/23	Policy	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, allow for fresh perspectives, minimizes the risk of corruption, and fosters a more responsive political environment.						
39	Strike the words "city council" and "council" and replace with Mayor.	III	11	Cara Mendelsohn	Councilmember	Online Form	12/4/23	Policy	City Council elections of these officer positions (Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem) are diverse 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.						
40	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 composed 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 "Team 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.						
41	ADD - Pension Contribution The City Manager must incorporate the full amount of the most recently published Actuarially Determined Contribution for all pension plans as an expense item in each proposed fiscal year budget to the city council.	NEW (maybe Chapter A1 section 137)		Cara Mendelsohn	Councilmember	Online Form	12/4/23	Policy	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.	YES					
42	The Position of City Manager shall be eliminated, with all power for operation of the city and budget vested solely in the Mayor and City Council.	VI	1	Eugene J. Robinson	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	12/4/23	Operational	The City Manager position must be eliminated. It produces nothing of benefit and is a hindrance to the operation of the city. The Position is undefined and not reasonable to the Citizens of Dallas. Our city is weak and badly run because of the poor decisions coming out of the city manager. This office fights with the mayor, makes unpopular and disruptive decisions, wastes money, and refuses to hire police to keep us safe!						
43	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 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. 17"	XXII		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 401.4-6 regarding the management and access to public procurements. Also this is language from 4-2-1983.						
44	Currently the Councilmembers must wait 2 years to run again after their 8 year term has ended. We are proposing the waiting period change from two years to four years waiting period.	III	3a	Yolanda Williams	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/10/23	Policy	Currently term Councilmembers must wait two years before they can run for council again. Proposed change, waiting period from two years to four years. It's important that the city adopts this amendment to give others the opportunity to serve. Also, to decrease the complacency in the District.						
45	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 investigate "Trust funds" authority.						
46	To create, provide for, construct, regulate, and maintain all places of public amusement.	II	1	Derek A. White	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/11/23	Policy	Safe bike lanes on streets are important. However, street bike lane utilization appears to be very low. The reasons may be that kids have no opportunity to safely play and compete using their bikes. This amendment will allow the city to develop BMX park master plans to construct, operate, and maintain. BMX parks for kids have the potential to generate revenue while providing them with healthy and safe competition as well as an enjoyable and engaging hobby.						
47	Materials discussed or presented in Planning commissions hearing should match what is published for public view 10 days prior to the meeting. If an item is held for a later hearing, all registered speakers should be notified. Registered speakers should be given at least 24 hours notice that their item will not be presented at the hearing. Planning commission hearing notices and materials should be made available in at least 2 languages.	XV	4	Lisa Neergaard	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/11/23	Policy	It is common for planning commissions to continue to negotiate changes to zoning request language in the days prior to a hearing. This means that the public does not have access to the materials being presented to the voters at the hearing. Additionally, it has become common for commissioners or applicants to decide to hold an item to the subsequent meeting in the hours before the meeting, allowing residents who took time out of the day/off work only to be asked to come back later.						

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44	The amendment is to change the term of the Municipal and Associate Judges from 2 year terms to either a 3 year or 4 year term depending on the term of council. There are amendments suggesting the City Council be elected to a 3 year or a 4 year term. This amendment would make the term of the judge the same as the term of council.	VIII	4	Judge Preston Robinson Jr	City Department	Online Form	12/11/23	Operational	It is important for the term of the Municipal Judge to be the same as the term of the Dallas City Council. The Judges are the direct appointees of The Council.											
49	Remove the following language: " (2) the municipal court clerk and the secretary of the civil service board, and — (3) the labor class, which shall include all ordinary unskilled labor."	XVI	3	Terry Lowery	Commissioner	Email/Memo	12/12/23	Operational	The civil service rules were put in place to select and protect line staff – especially those lower skilled workers who might not have access to departmental decision-makers or city leadership, but whose skills and employment ensure the organization is able to meet its operational needs and requirements. By removing the limitations in Section 303(3), the charter can better protect those types of city employees. Describing the "labor class" as "unskilled labor" leaves out those laborers who are required to hold certificates or licenses to perform their functions – such as a truck driver who needs a CDL (commercial driver's license) or a sanitation or water department employee who is required to have an environmental certification from TCEQ, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Removing this section also removes the two-level appeal limitation on the "labor class." Right now, unclassified positions can only appeal to the two (2) levels directly above them. In a large department a front-line employee is likely to have several layers of supervisors and managers before reaching the level of a departmental executive, such as an assistant director or director, to grieve and appeal an adverse job determination or working conditions.											
50	Strong Mayor City form of government	IV		Chris Cusak	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/12/23	Operational	The elected mayor should have the power to operate the city as this person is elected by the citizens of the city											
51	Here is the proposed amendment to the Charter. It belongs in Chapter 2 "Powers of City" (27). Under Chapter 2 (27) In order to protect fundamental human rights, it is further defined that the bodies of the inhabitants (Sec 1) are not owned by the City of Dallas, and that people have the inalienable right to make their own health and body decisions so long as it does not interfere with the rights of another.	II	2	Gail Lewis	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/14/23	Technical	It is paramount that "inhabitants" are further defined as not being owned by the City of Dallas in Section 1, and that their fundamental human rights are inviolate as to their own body and health decisions, so long as it does not interfere with the rights of another.											
52	Increase the amount of districts and members to represent the Dallas city council.	IV	5	Hany Abdel-Motaleb	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/14/23	Policy	The total population of the City of Dallas has increased 30% since 1990. As a result, the residents of Dallas are receiving less and lower quality representation. The Charter has not been updated in decades to reflect proper representation for the growing Dallas population. Therefore, an increase of 4 districts would help keep the same rate of residents to council people.											
53	A candidate for mayor or city council, or candidate's committee may not solicit or accept a political contribution except during the 180 days before an election for mayor or council member.	IV	New	Albert Mata	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/15/23	Operational	Levels the playing field in elections for challenges which is good for democracy	Given we have two year terms this assures that city council members are spending most of their time governing and not fundraising for the next election.								Chapter IV, Elections and Referendums New Section must be Added: Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures		
54	No later than the 90th day after an election for a seat on city council, a candidate or officeholder shall distribute the balance of unexpended funds received from political contributions, in excess of any remaining expenses for the election, in a manner compliant the law of the State of Texas. A candidate or officeholder who, after an election, has unpaid expenses remaining, or who has unrebursed campaign expenditures, may solicit and accept political contributions after the election until the unpaid expenses are paid and the unrebursed expenditures are reimbursed. An officeholder may retain up to \$30,000.00 of funds received from political contributions for the purposes of officeholder expenditures.	IV	New	Albert Mata	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/15/23	Operational	Reduces the influence of money on elections. Levels the playing field for all candidates. Doesn't permit for candidates to stockpile campaign funds for another election. Every election is a fresh start.									Chapter IV, Election and Referendums Section (New). Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures		
55	(1) A committee of at least five registered voters of the City of Dallas must make application to the city secretary and file an intention to circulate a petition, giving the date and the proposed ordinance to be circulated. Unless the final petition, with the required number of signatures is returned within 120 days from this date, it will not be received for any purpose. (2) The petition must contain the names of a number of qualified voters in the city equal to the number of voters in the most recent citywide election for city council, as appears in the election results.	XVIII	11	Albert Mata	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/15/23	Operational	Improve the process by which citizens may petition their government, and effectuate change. The current process is too high of a hurdle for many grassroots level groups to influence change. Provide for a increase in direct democracy, which is good. Limit the amount of signatures needed to match the amount that voted for council in the last cycle means that citizen initiatives must at least match the "legitimacy" of the current council.											
56	Remove or amend "and all assistant city attorneys" from the line "The city attorney and all assistant city attorneys shall devote their entire time to the service of the city."	VII	2	Jamie Guthrie	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/15/23	Policy	The purpose would be to allow assistant city attorneys the ability to practice law outside of the time that they devote to city affairs.											
57	I propose the Charter be amended to require all local elections be held in November in odd years in order to enhance voter participation.	IV	3	Vicki Meek	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/20/23	Policy	Currently, voter turnout for local elections is very low. I believe the changing of the month to one that is associated with national elections will potentially increase voter participation.											
58	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."	III A	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.											
59	Change Chapter IV Section 3 of the City Charter to state that General elections for the purpose of electing members to the City Council shall be held on the state-wide uniform election date in November of even-numbered years. Any other amendments necessary to transition from odd-numbered to even-numbered years should be drafted by the City Attorney's Office and passed. If this does not pass, then at minimum, the election date should be changed to November of odd-numbered years.	IV	3	Christine Hopkins	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/28/23	Policy	Resourcing will also be saved by combining local City elections with state-wide and/or Federal elections, especially if other local political subdivisions are encouraged to follow suit by the City's leadership on this important issue impacting our democracy. Rather than the government expending significant sums of taxpayer money to hold poorly attended elections in May as well as better attended elections in November, all elections can be held together in November.	Changing the date of elections to coincide with important state-wide and Federal elections will significantly increase voter turnout and result in a more democratic and equitable election process in the City of Dallas. Voter turnout for the May 2023 city council elections was abysmal, with voter turnout ranging from 3% of the voting age population to 10% of the voting age population for contested city council elections. https://docs.google.com/forms/submit?id=1p8e5v0l8r0K90m3JmLmJL6U4WkV6w57?usp=sharing&uid=103550023162459851198&ipd=true&id=true This is also a racial equity issue as elections in May see a higher voter turnout in majority white city council districts (9% to 10% for contested elections) and lower voter turnouts in majority minority city council districts (3% to 4% in majority black districts and 3% to 6% in majority Hispanic districts).										
60	"The City of Dallas shall honor its obligations." Please fund the Police and Fire Penisons, as promised and required by law.	XI		Susan Drake	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/28/23	Operational	The City of Dallas has failed to meet its obligations to retired police officers and firefighters. We are drowning under inflation and can look forward to asking further down every year. This is not only callous and unethical, it's illegal.											
61	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.			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	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 not be rationally related to governmental interests unless those liabilities are related to the office held/sought											
63	A lien is hereby created on all property, personal and real, in favor of the City of Dallas, for all taxes, all violations, occupation or otherwise. Said lien shall exist from the start of 30 days after the tax is due or January 1 of the 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 the 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 the taxes are actually levied, then and in that event the amount of the taxes due shall be the same as was actually levied (in the prior year) for the same property and shall be secured by a lien in that amount.) All persons or corporations owning or holding personal property or real estate in the city from the the lien exists (on the first day of January of each year) shall be liable for all municipal taxes fixed thereon. (In each year) 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.	XX	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.											

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64	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	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 DPR 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	Change "registered voters" to "residents"	XVIII	11(f)	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	I would like to propose that the Park Board Vice President be elected by the Park Board instead of the City Council.	XVII		Mana Hasbany	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/5/24	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.																
68	The city shall annually report on progress in improving pedestrian, bicycle and electric vehicles under several miles per hour infrastructure and safety, and establish specific goals for the expansion and enhancement of these transportation modes. (CHAPTER XX. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS. NEW SECTION)	XV	8	Hary Swanson	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/5/24	Policy	Dallas County for decades has implemented car-centric policies, which turned it into one of the country's most automobile-dependent metro areas. With approximately 2.1 million vehicles and anticipated growth of 30,000 vehicles per year, the cost of road construction is becoming unmanageable, congestion is increasing to an unbearable point and accidents are increasing at an unmanageable rate. Something different has to be done, which is putting pedestrians, bicycles and electric vehicles under 20 miles per hour at forefront of the movement of people, goods and services in the City of Dallas.												Submitter indicated this should be in both Chapter XV and Chapter XX.				
69	Expand City Council to 15-1	III	1	Minister Dominique Alexander	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/11/24	Policy	a. It's allows for more diverse representation b. The population has almost doubled since 14-1 was put in place																
70	Have the Park & Recreation Department be administered by the Park & Recreation Director under the supervision of the city manager and oversight authority to the Park & Recreation Board.	XVIII	1	Minister Dominique Alexander	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/11/24	Policy	The current way only continues a inequitable Dallas that serves wealthy area and fails to address impoverished areas of Dallas, the city of Dallas has a racial equity plan that the park board doesn't even recognize. Lastly (the only leader the city parks & recreation department open) for private agenda's for gentrification plan to displace minority communities.																
71	Allow for third-party consultants to perform Building Inspections and Permit Reviews on any new construction or renovation projects	XXIV	7	Stephen Lohr	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/12/24	Policy	The city is not currently able to perform reviews and inspections in a timely and efficient manner. Other large cities in the state allow for this process, including the city of Ft. Worth. Third party consultants would help to alleviate the inherent bottle necks in the current City of Dallas model and speed up development and construction.																
72	The Charter should reflect that city employees should be considered vialatesseless workers who are required to work - in some capacity - when the city experiences crises like the February 2021 SnowMageddon, other weather events, demonstrations, destructive protests, explosions, etc. Our 13,000 employees should be considered like Army Reservists, ready and able to be deployed when staffing is most needed, and no one is to do. In emergencies, it's "all hands on deck! During SnowMageddon, restaurant workers were considered "essential", but at City Hall, many staffers were at home and not working. If you're an engineer or planner, you could be assigned to answer phone calls - which went unanswered most often during SnowMageddon.	XVII		Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	I called city hall often during SnowMageddon and other events, and phones just rang and rang. They were not even forwarded to persons who were at work. Informational function during a crisis is the most critical function during an emergency. Many staffers were allowed to use the event as a vacation. The worse offender was the city manager's office. Develop an emergency plan, practice it, and have the plan at least twice a year, and pre-assign ALL staff to secondary crisis positions. An attorney can answer at home phone from home. A crisis street light on the failures or your day-to-day operations. Try calling city hall on Fridays in the executive offices, and see what you get.																
73	The charter should reflect that the municipality is reachable 24 hours a day, in person, or by phone, internet, messaging, etc. However, this cannot be done without having communication systems and people who understand that the common thread for all positions and departments is "beyond the call of duty" service" to our citizens. As a former City of Dallas employee, I am embarrassed to say that the "good enough for city hall" mentality still prevails with some notable exceptions. This mentality persists because it is allowed and subliminally encouraged under the false pretense that city workers are professionals deserving of perks equal to those in the business marketplace. But, the marketplace requires accountability and measurable results. City Hall, most often, requires proof of activity and little accountability.	Chapter XXIV Section 7		Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Operational	The Communications department should be responsible for developing a communication "BRAND" for city hall that includes a basic information template for each department on the city's departmental website. If you review the city's website, there is little cohesion, and that reflects the reality that the city is made up of 48 little autonomous governments, instead of one cohesive whole. The City has been waiting about "side-frinking" for 40+ years, but will not take the bull by the horns and operate it as one entity first, secondly, the staff needed to undertake the task doesn't exist within city government; and there doesn't seem to be the will or the need to do it.																
74	My grandfather use to say "If we don't know where we're going, it doesn't matter what road we take". The Charter should require that the city manager, council, and mayor develop, oversee, and update frequently short-and long-term VISIONS for our city - always looking at least 5 years ahead. Instead, city leadership continues to churn out annual budgets with lightweight metrics that emphasizes business over outcomes or results. This rolling, ever-evolving Vision should be the result of input from citizens, the business community, and city officials. They must contain simple, yet measurable metrics, and citizens - who pay the lion's share of the cost of our bloated bureaucracy, should have the most say so. Right now, unselected special interest provide the agenda for city hall, and the rest of us get what's left over. This VISION requires the contracting of organizational development experts with experience in real change.	I don't know		Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	My organization paid a reputable company to summarize all of the city sponsored "plans" for South Dallas/Fair Park over the last 50 years. We were shocked to discover SUDPP had been the local point of 100 plans - none implemented. There is no formal effort that requires city departments to work, plan and budget TOGETHER. For example, the city believes that crime is the responsibility of DPD. However, shouldn't Parks & Rec, Code, Sanitation, Integrated Public Safety, DFR, City Attorney, Libraries, and DSD share responsibility for crime reduction? It has been proved that crime decreases when centers are fully staffed. Nuisance business wouldn't have crime if Code prevented them from getting permits they don't deserve. Effective governance is a shared responsibility!																
75	The Charter should boldly state that the primary responsibility of city government is to provide quality, measurable, affordable, innovative BASIC city services (e.g. Water, Sanitation, Code, 311, Libraries, Communications, DPR, Fire, Park & Rec, and other "outward-facing" services). Departments that do not provide direct benefit to citizens should be evaluated as 2nd and 3 tier priorities. We will never make the man thing the man thing until the city is held accountable for it. Every mayor/council brings its own priorities, and we're constantly chasing new, shiny things while ignoring the basics. This charter change requires changes to the way the city budgets and conducts performance evaluations.	I don't know		Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	The City has no way of determining how effective it is because it has too many departments and too many priorities. By focusing on BASIC quality service delivery, we can set a benchmark from which to grow. Citizens pay for the noise for services they can understand and see. But how do we measure the effectiveness of the mayors ethics initiative, when unethical things happen before our eyes everyday? Its enable and mislead. Citizens want their trash picked up, for DPR to respond quickly, and to pay a reasonable price without these services costing more annually while the service level declines. The Charter was designed, not purpose, to address the needs and desires of wealthy influencers, and not based on the needs of ordinary citizens. The Charter is the place where this fundamental, structural change can be made.																
76	I recommend a substantive rewrite of the governance provisions of the charter. It was written more than 150 years ago by wealthy businessmen that became known as the Citizens Council. They intentionally created the structure that made the most money for themselves and their group. They gave considerable authority to the city manager, but withheld from the position (oversight of city judges, the city attorney, city secretary and city auditor). Therefore, the city manager is limited in his/her authority, and the city council, at that time, was chaired by a large, thereby preventing anyone who wasn't handpicked from the Citizens Council from winning. Although we moved to single member districts in the 1980s, very little has changed related to the distribution of power in Dallas. Therefore, we are recommending that the city attorney, auditor, and secretary report to the City Manager, thereby strengthening the role and authority of that position. The administrative law judge can remain with the council and mayor.	I don't know		Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Operational	As an advocate for South Dallas for 12 years, we deal with city departments weekly. Many of the complex challenges our community faces cannot be solved by department heads because the issues cross departmental lines. We are constantly faced with issues of who has authority, and solutions are left unresolved. One project stands out where the city wants community developers to build 40 houses in an area, but the city did not disclose to the developers the ground and ground water contamination in the area, drugs and homeless had overgrown the area, a polluting laundry shared a property line with other off-site jobs, and 18 wheelers carrying hazardous materials drives down residential streets daily, and the property is in non-conforming use. The project was initiated in 2015, and not a single home has been completed, and two of the 3 developers have dropped out, and the remaining developer cannot get move forward because of unexpected delays in signing paperwork, which costs him money daily. As many as 12 city departments and/or government agencies are involved in this project, but no one is in charge. We had to fight city hall to get the project as far as it has come, but it shouldn't take 5 years to build 40 homes.																
77	The charter should be amended to require that the annual Performance Evaluations of all department heads, the mayor, the city manager, all city council members, the city manager, city manager and council include a formal process that includes input from citizens, and that citizen feedback determine at least 50% of the evaluation. Citizens pay for most of the city's annual 4 billion-dollar budget yet have little to no say so about the job performance of those spending our money. In a democracy, citizens are in charge. Although the City contracts with a company to conduct an annual service delivery survey, city leadership ignores the input from citizens, and does what it wants to do. Therefore, the charter needs to contain language that obligates leadership to abide by citizen wishes.	I don't know		Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	In a one-one-one meeting with former chief of staff, and in a small group meeting with Chief Garcia, I asked about the process for citizen input into the performance evaluations of police officers that we deal with closely on a routine basis. There was no former process, but they both said citizens may write a letter or memo at anytime. I also posed the question of a councillor, who had the same response. The people who spend our money, and who deliver such poor services need to help accountable for their actions. Like with leadership, 50% of the results should be determined by citizen input. On so many issues, we end up fighting against city hall, when city hall should be yielding to our requests. Citizens are in the paying client. We've experienced "city-led" governance for so long, that it sounds revolutionary to even voice key words from our nation's constitution, "government of the people, by the people, for the people."																

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76	It seems unconstitutional and downright wrong that the city has municipal immunity in certain court and real estate transactions, and that police have immunity in criminal cases, even when an officer kills a civilian. Citizens don't have such immunity. Right is right and wrong is wrong. It is my understanding that the city is not bound by Seller Disclosure rules that require other sellers to tell buyers what they know about the property in question. These practices allow the government to get away with malfeasance, legally. This is wrong morally and ethically.	I don't know	Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	Do unto others what you would have them do unto you.														
77	Although single member districts are preferable to All At Large elections, one of its shortcomings is that only leaves the mayor, who has little authority, looking out for the entire city. As I look at South Dallas single member districts have been the norm. I see little improvement in the area. I recommend adding 2-3 At Large positions, so that there are individuals responsible for the good of the whole. Who do we get as a mayor? We have disagreements with our councilperson? The mayor? - the position that has so little power?	I don't know	Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	When single member districts were approved in the 80s, most people don't know that there were several scenarios contemplated. There was a 15 - 0, and 11 - 3, and 8 - 3, among others. It should be the responsibility of someone to consider a decision's impact on the entire city, and to provide all citizens an alternative to their councilperson - especially considering that only 8 to 10 percent of our electorate vote.														
80	The charter should adopt measurable metrics by which to evaluate the effectiveness of the council, mayor, city manager, ACMs, and their direct reports. None of these individuals should receive pay increases unless and until they meet or exceed agreed upon measures that prove their effectiveness as leaders. Right now, council can vote to give itself a car allowance or a raise without having to approve their effectiveness. Did they save the citizens money? Did they improve service delivery? Did they develop innovative or more efficient or cost-effective ways of doing things? They do not deserve the raises they have received. How dare they improve their finances on the back of citizens who find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Practice the same austerity and restraint that citizens have to practice. Walk a mile in our shoes. Pay raises should be placed on the ballot to be approved by the citizens after proof is provided on their leadership and fiscal responsibility.	I don't know	Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	Where are the checks and balances with the current system? City leadership can vote itself a raise anytime, especially when the city is starting bankruptcy in the face with the lingering Pension crisis? City seems clueless as to what its policies are doing to the citizens. The consensus in my community is the city is an enemy. How can you vote for a raise for yourselves when people are losing their homes thru runaway housing valuations and taxes. Tone deaf!														
81	The charter should allow citizens and nonprofit organizations to retain the right to initiate privatization processes against businesses that are in non-conforming use with their respective PD, Planned Development District. The City attorney has recently stated that her interpretation of state law grants this power to municipalities, not to citizens. For decades, citizens had the right to bring actions against companies or businesses who no longer remain good partners. The City's Planning and Urban Design department, ironically, has drafted language opposed to residential adjacency of polluting or nuisance businesses located next to residential communities. Throughout South and West Dallas, home are located next door or across the street from heavy industry. The planning department sees that these entities cannot share property lines and be compatible. Yet the city attorney says it's ok. These are dueling actions that need consensus.	I don't know	Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	Stated previously. Don't take away rights from citizens who have so few rights as it is. The City should be empowering citizens.														
82	Council terms should be extended to 3 or 4 years. The current two year terms keep elected officials in constant campaign mode. It takes time to learn the position, and the position continues to change. It is difficult also for complex projects to be completed when the councilperson changes every 2 years. Change is good, but this is the type of change that is disruptive. I also recommend moving municipal elections to November. We have done turnout for municipal elections in May. We have to try something different to see if it can work better. Doing the same old thing doesn't make sense.	I don't know	Ken Smith	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	Already provided														
83	Establish the Office of Inspector General ("OIG") as a fully independent division of the City, similar to the City Manager, City Secretary, 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.	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	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. 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: -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. Other cities that have recently established their own offices of inspector general like														
84	CH XX, Sec. 2 LEVY AND COLLECTION should be amended to allow property tax relief with some form of property tax exemption for small commercial owner/landlord.	XX	2	Joella Prause	Resident or stakeholder	Online Form	1/15/24	Policy	Small business property owners/landlords are the backbone of the economy. Large corporate developers/investors are supported by generous local and state tax abatements and incentives. Homeowners have both homestead and over-65 exemptions. The small commercial business owner/landlord has NO tax relief. To deny the small business property owner/landlord tax relief is discriminatory and violates equitable treatment by the City and County of Dallas.													
85	Bring the Parks Department under the management and supervision of the City Manager. (Please see "Notes" column for suggested redrafting)	XVIII	1	Chris Luna	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	1/16/24	Policy	The park and recreation department is the only department that does not report directly to the city manager. I think that it would be efficient and effective to have the park and recreation department directly under the management and supervision of the city manager. The role of the park and recreation is too important to have them in a silo. This would also allow the elected city council representatives to have larger and more important role in the operations of the park and recreation department.												suggested redrafting from Mr. Luna linked here	
86	Remove Section 2, from Chapter XV as the language is obsolete: SEC. 2. URBAN CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION AND REDEVELOPMENT. The council may by ordinance provide for urban redevelopment, rehabilitation and conservation programs for: (1) the alleviation or prevention of slums, obsolescence, blight or other conditions of urban deterioration; and (2) the achievement of the most appropriate use of land. (Renumbered by Amend. of 6-12-73, Prop. No. 43)	XV	2	Planning and Urban Design	City Department	Online Form	1/17/24	Policy	the language is obsolete and not aligned with current City Policies.													
87	In Section 3, Chapter XV, update the following language to reflect the current practices for appointments, as codified in other applicable codes: "The city council shall name one of the members to be the chair and one to be the vice chair" to say "Each city council member shall appoint one member to the plan and zoning commission. The mayor shall appoint the chair from among the members, subject to confirmation by the city council."	XV	3	Planning and Urban Design	City Department	Online Form	1/17/24	Operational	the language does not reflect the current practices and codes for appointments of Chair and Vice Chair of CPC.													
89	Amending Chapter 4 of the Dallas City Charter to add new Section 14 establishing a "Democracy Dollars" Program to provide eligible Dallas residents up to four (4) \$25 Democracy Dollar Vouchers ("Democracy Dollars") per election cycle to use for contributions to participating city council or mayoral candidates. The Democracy Dollars may be donated to a resident district city council or mayoral candidate. The purpose of the Democracy Dollars program is to ensure that all people of Dallas have equal opportunity to participate in political campaigns and are heard by candidates, to strengthen democracy, to fulfill the purposes of single-member districts, to enhance candidate competition, and to prevent corruption. (Please see "Notes" column for full proposal)	IV	14 (NEW)	Cody Meador, Liz Wally, Dana Burns	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	1/18/24	Policy	(PLEASE SEE NOTES) A public small voucher campaign contribution option, added to our current campaign finance system of disclosure and contribution limits, will help assure fair representation on the city council from a broader and more diverse electorate. The 14-1 singlemember district system has helped ensure representation for all areas of our City - not just a few select wealthy areas that historically dominated Dallas - by requiring that candidates come from and are elected by their distinct geographic district. Currently, however, substantial amounts of the campaign funding for city council district candidates still comes from outside their districts, primarily from those same few wealthy areas of Dallas. A public small voucher program would address the unfair, excess influence of a few wealthy Dallas areas that dominate contributions, by allowing participating candidates to raise much of their funding from their own district constituents' small vouchers. A publicly financed voucher program would provide an option to supplement the current privately financed campaign contribution system by requiring participating candidates to agree to lower contribution limits, strict self-funding limits, and expenditure limits. These limits could not be waived if other candidates do not participate. The current system would remain essentially the same for nonparticipating candidates.												link to full suggestion	
90	Ch. XVI, Sec. 30b(1) (discussing who is part of unclassified personnel) should state, "and other managerial personnel as designated by city council [rules of the board]."	XVI	3b(1)	Civil Service	City Department	Online Form	1/18/24	Policy	Conflicts with other provisions.													

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91	Eliminate subsections §§ 6(b), (d). Add § 6(c)(3): (2) removal or reduction for cause under standard civil service hearing and appeal procedures; (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.
92	Adopt a Most Favored Pricing (MFP) policy for all city contracts, coupled with procedural guidelines to ensure effective implementation. (See "Notes" column for full proposal)			Scott Beck	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	1/18/24		These measures will significantly enhance the integrity and efficiency of the City of Dallas's contract procurement processes, ensuring fiscal responsibility and fair play in public sector contracts. Large the committee to seriously consider the proposal and the accompanying procedural guidelines. Adopting these measures will set a precedent for municipal contracts, potentially leading to substantial savings and more efficient use of public funds.
93	Change the 34th vote requirement to a traditional supermajority of 2/3rds vote for council to change or modify restricting plans.	IV	5(b)(6)	Stuart Campbell	Commissioner	Online Form	1/18/24	Operational	This will lower the vote threshold to amendments/changes to proposed restricting plan maps from needing 12 votes to only needing 10 votes.
94	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.
95	In the event all large voting districts are created, have the voters choose directly the Mayor Pro Tempore and the Deputy Pro Tempore by having the elections for the all-large city council seats be for those positions as well. These selections of which all large seat would be Pro Tem or Deputy Pro Tem could be: (1) First, meaning all large seat 1 is always Pro Tem and all large seat 2 is always Deputy, or (2) these seats could alternate per election cycle. Option 1 makes the most sense.	III	11	Stuart Campbell	Commissioner	Online Form	1/18/24	Policy	If one or more of the currently submitted all-large district amendments succeed, the most democratic and fair way of choosing who the Pro Tem and Dep. Pro Tem should be would be to let the voters choose. It also is an easy way of understanding all-large districts - voters will more easily understand that they are voting for all large councilmembers if an elevated role/title is attached to the all-large seat.
96	Add that for the Mayor to appoint a chair of any commission, board, or task force, the Mayor also must obtain co-sponsors of that appointment from council. So, for the mayor to appoint a chair of a commission, board, or task force, at least two other members of council must co-sign and agree.	Multiple		Stuart Campbell	Commissioner	Online Form	1/18/24	Operational	Chairpersons of boards, commissions, and task forces can have a significant role in setting agendas, and thus can control the output, or lack thereof, of the body. Adding that the mayor must obtain two signatures from councilmembers establishes a baseline of accountability for council to have some minimal say in who chairs powerful boards, commissions, and task forces.
97	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 commensurate with the job duties of city councilmembers. The reason for separating mayor and council salaries is because that's how it has been historically, and the mayor does have some, though limited, added responsibilities.
98	Strike Ch. 7 Sec. 3(9): "Advising the city council, the city manager, and all the departments of the city concerning new or proposed state or federal legislation and representing the city before all legislative bodies in matters affecting the city."	VII	3(9)	Stuart Campbell	Commissioner	Online Form	1/18/24	Operational	This is to streamline the legislative affairs efforts of the city. Currently, legislative efforts and responsibilities are split between CIM and CAO, which causes confusion, ambiguity, and inefficiencies. This amendment would relieve the CAO of those duties and rest them solely with the CIM.
99	Amend Chapter 15, Section 4 of the Charter to authorize administrative approval of plat applications.	XV	4	Brent Rubin	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	1/18/24		In 2023, the Legislature amended Local Government Code Section 212.0065 to substantially broaden the circumstances in which a municipality can delegate authority to approve a plat, which by default rests with a planning commission, to an employee or officer of the municipality--i.e., administrative approval. Currently, the Charter tasks the City Plan Commission with considering plat applications, which, at best, leaves it uncertain whether the CPC's authority can be delegated through administrative approval. Any delegation would also require a separate code amendment, through which the specifics of the administrative approval process could be worked out. So, this Charter amendment would facilitate consideration of, but not mandate, an administrative approval process. Among other things, an administrative approval process should be considered because it has the potential to make development processes more efficient and because it could decrease the workload of CPC without significantly increasing workload of city staff, which already thoroughly reviews platting applications before they are presented to CPC.
100	Add language: "The power is further conferred upon the city to construct underground or subterranean public improvements, vehicular or pedestrian tubes, tunnels, or subway streets or other public subterranean facilities, and to provide that the cost of making any such improvements shall be paid for by the property owners owning property in the territory specially benefited in enhanced value by reason of making such improvements. A personal charge shall be made against such owners and a lien shall be fixed by special assessment against any such property with the exception of property owned by the city. The city may issue assignable or negotiable certificates, as it deems advisable, covering such cost, and may provide for the payment of such cost in deferred payments and its rate shall not to exceed eight percent. It may provide for the appointment of special commissioners for the making or reviving of all special assessments, or may provide that the same may be done by the city council. The rules and regulations shall be the same as those applicable in the assessing for the improving of a street, as nearly as practicable."	XX	12	Office of Equity and Inclusion	City Department	Email/Memo	1/19/24		Equity is a Core Value for the City of Dallas and as such we consider residents with greatest need. Economic disparities in income for residents often lead to disparities in access to opportunities, services and basic needs. When we consider residents with greatest needs and the systems involved they often disproportionately bear the burden we can reduce and close disparity gaps thereby fostering a more equitable and inclusive Dallas.
101	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.
102	I am proposing the City Attorney's Office report to the City Manager but the hiring of the city attorney still be appointed by the City Council.	VII	1	Minister Dominique Alexander	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	This increases transparency to the public about the day to day function of city attorney's office and gives the city council more direction of the city currently the City Attorney has more authority to ignore the will of the residents.
103	Parks Director appointed by Council rather than Park Board	XVII		Adam Medrano / Marshall Mills	Commissioner	Other	1/19/24	Policy	Increase transparency and accountability
104	MCC Director appointed by and reports to City Council	New		Adam Medrano / Marshall Mills	Commissioner	Other	1/19/24	Operational	Align City Councilmember staff practices with those of other elected officials at local and state levels.
106	Council members should be elected in staggered terms. Depending on whether the commission decides on 3 or 4 year terms, or if the terms stay at 2 years, council terms should be staggered between the districts.	III	1	Adam McGough	Commissioner	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	The council is less efficient when the entire council is up for election at the same time. The election process does not allow for the requisite scrutiny of all the council candidates due to limited resources, focus and time when all 14 districts have elections at the same time.
106	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 required 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	"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.
108	Create a limited power of veto for the Mayor in three specific areas along with a city council override of the veto with 2/3 vote. The mayor would have authority to veto only: 1) the budget, 2) a bond proposition, or 3) A department level direct hire such as the Chief of Police and Fire Chief. Upon the exercise of the veto power, the city council could override the veto based on a vote of 2/3 of the city council.	III		Adam McGough	Commissioner	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	Governance should be efficient and accountable. The 14-1 governance has been important. By creating a sliver of accountability in three very limited areas, collaboration is encouraged and rightly placed on the city wide elected official. However, for such impactful areas, the city council as a whole should have the final say, and it should be based on a 2/3 majority to ensure all representatives have a say and the best outcomes are achieved. To have adequate time for review and alterations, timelines for budget preparation and deadlines for veto must be established so that state required deadlines are met.
109	Correct any areas where City Councilmembers are excluded from earned or accruing benefits due to a classification for employment purposes as official versus 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	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 15 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.
111	I am proposing the Mayor and City Council be paid \$100,000 per year.	III	4	Minister Dominique Alexander	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	The people who are in control of our cities budget should be paid above the growing cost of living here in Dallas TX.
112	I would like for the Dallas City Charter to preclude board and commission members from endorsing any Dallas City Councilmember and prohibit any board or commission member from working on any Dallas City Council members political campaign and prohibit any board or commission member from donating to any Dallas City Council Members political campaign.	XXIV	13	Honorable Kevin Felder	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	Because this happened very recently where a current City Council Member appointed a Redistricting Commissioner that in turn endorsed him for re-election, campaigned for him, donated to his campaign and had a campaign event at her home for him. That is egregious!
113	I am proposing the Dallas City Council have confirmation authority over all City Executive of each department with a public hearing for public input hired by the Dallas City Manager.	VI	2	Minister Dominique Alexander	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	To increase transparency of the hiring of Department heads.

2023-24 Suggested Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

114	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	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.											
116	Clarify that platting authority is delegated by City Council, which may allow future potential amendments to Article 8 of Chapter 51A to expand administrative plat approval for certain plats.	XV	4	Jennifer Hiromoto	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Operational	HB 3699 allows for municipalities to delegate platting authority to an administrative level. Not all plats require public notice. Plats are at the end of the City Plan Commission hearing, which can often run over 10 hours long, creating staff overtime/comp time. CPC has no subjective criteria for commercial plats and ministerially approves these plats. Commercial plats at the administrative level could reduce development timelines by 2-6 weeks.											
117	The City of Dallas has adopted a citywide Bike Plan in the past and will be considering adoption of a new plan in 2024. The Bike Plan should be coordinated with and tied to the Thoroughfare Plan as both deal with our citywide transportation network and roadway design. The portion of the Thoroughfare Plan that is written into the City Charter says that City Council will adopt a Thoroughfare Plan by ordinance and that any change in that ordinance requires a public hearing, and notification of all property owners within 200 feet of the area of the proposed change. The Bike Plan should be granted the same status within the City Charter as the Thoroughfare Plan.	XV	8	Philip Hiatt Haigh	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	The City of Dallas needs to increase transportation options for residents as our population grows. The Bike Plan should be considered a safe and reliable transportation option along with our roadways. Adding the same protections to the Bike Plan that the Thoroughfare Plan currently has would ensure that bike facilities are planned, designed, and implemented with the same viability as vehicular roadways.											
118	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.											
119	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		Ken Mitchell	Resident/Stakeholder	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.										All locations include: Chapters VIII Section 7, VIII Section 15, IV Section 13(b), III Section 19), XVII Sections 7 & 15, XXII Section 2	
120	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 if it has done is approved gentrification of legacy black and brown communities. What happens to the funding that is allocated to assist with those 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, text, or local news outlets. Social media can be an option also.			Paula Hutchison	Resident/Stakeholder	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.											
121	Chapter XI SEC. 2. BUDGET ESTIMATES TO BE FURNISHED TO CITY MANAGER BY DEPARTMENTS NOT UNDER CITY MANAGER'S IMMEDIATE DIRECTION. Every department of the city government not under the direct control of the city manager, except the city auditor and the park and recreation department director, shall furnish to the city manager, for use in the preparation of recommendations to the council regarding the annual budget, a detailed budget estimate of the needs and requirements of such department for the coming year. The city auditor and the park and recreation department director shall furnish detailed budget estimates of the needs and requirements of the city auditor's office and the park and recreation department respectively for the coming year directly to the city council, to be approved by the city council, and then consolidated with the city manager's annual budget estimate. The park and recreation department director's recommended budget shall first be approved by a majority of the park and recreation board (Amend. Of 11-8-05, Prop. No. 13, Amend. Of 11-4-14, Prop. No. 5)	XI	2	Scott Goldstein & Tim Dickey	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	Early city leaders recognized the unique needs of a strong park and recreation department by creating a quasi-independent structure with additional layers of oversight through the Park Board. The Dallas Park & Recreation Department has proven itself to be one of the leading park departments in the country, consistently executing transformative projects that improve the quality of life of Dallas residents. This revision would bring the annual budget process in line with the quasi-independent nature of Dallas park governance generally and, most importantly, would give the duly elected City Council members full authority over the department's annual budget.											suggested redline
122	I am proposing that once Councilmembers are appointed to the Council Committee assignment, the body of the committee votes for the Chair & Vice Chair of that particular committee.	III		Minister Dominique Alexander	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/19/24	Policy	Increasing transparency and bipartisanship from the Mayor.											
123	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/Stakeholder	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.											
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