

Summary of the October 30, 2024 Charter Review Committee Meeting

Discussion was had regarding sections 1 and 1.1 of the City Charter.

Section 1.

Discussion was held by the Charter Review Committee (“CRC”) regarding increasing the number of commissioners and/or creating districts for some or all of those commission seats.

The CRC discussed the potential benefits of at-large or districted seats (North, South, Central for instance) as well as the additional bureaucracy and cost of adding additional commissioners. Ultimately there was no direction given to amend the number or at-large nature of the Commission seats.

Discussion was also held regarding the history of the two-year term for Mayor and the four-year Commission term. Discussion was held regarding the benefits of allowing a new majority to be elected each general election, versus the drawbacks of a short turnaround for the mayoral position. The CRC took no position on changing the length of terms.

The CRC spent a substantial amount of time discussing the election date. Pros and cons for turnout, coverage, and campaign costs were all discussed. As explained by the City Attorney, currently state law and the Charter allow the Commission to change the election date via referendum or via ordinance. One member suggested that the Charter be amended to require that changing the election via ordinance require a super-majority vote of the Commission. The City Attorney’s office will draft a Charter amendment to that effect for consideration at a future CRC meeting.

The CRC also discussed the current section regarding filling of vacancies on the Commission, and no amendments or changes were suggested.

Section 1.1

The CRC discussed both the need for a run-off as well as the logistics of the timing of the run-off. The City Clerk presented information regarding turnout in both the general and run-off elections in response to questions regarding a drop-off in participation between the two elections. Discussion was also had regarding the cost, and the timing of the run-off which is currently two weeks after the general election. The City Attorney’s office clarified that the charter currently allows the Commission to change the run-off date via ordinance. The CRC did not express any interest in eliminating the run-off or changing the date at this time.