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Public Notice

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS

City of Dallas

POSTED CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TX

1500 Marilla Street
Council Chambers, 6th Floor
Dallas, Texas 75201



Charter Review Commission

January 11, 2024

6:30 PM

The Charter Review Commission meeting will be held by video conference and in the Council Chambers, 6th Floor at City Hall.

The public may attend the meeting virtually; City Hall is available for those wishing to attend the meeting in person.

The following video conference link is available to the public to listen to the meeting and Public Affairs and Outreach will also stream the Charter Review Commission on Spectrum Cable Channels 16 (English) and 95 (Spanish) and at bit.ly/cityofdallastv.

<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m6e714360837115cedfef7c2f2d4668aa>

Call to Order

Public Speakers

MINUTES

[24-168](#) Approval of December 12, 2023 Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

DISCUSSION ITEM

[24-169](#) Charter Review Commission Amendment Review Schedule and Process

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS*

A. [24-157](#) Allow the City Manager to submit an estimated budget to the city council by August 15th instead of on August 15th in Chapter XI § 1. [Amendment 22]

Attachments: [Attachment](#)

B. [24-159](#) Amend City Council candidate residency requirements to match the requirements in the Election Code in Chapter IV § 6. [Amendment 35]

Attachments: [Attachment](#)

- C. [24-160](#) Delete requirement that the city secretary verify the truth in a filed affidavit of residency in Chapter IV § 6(c)(2). [Amendment 45]
Attachments: [Attachment](#)
- D. [24-161](#) Add a provision to allow for an alternate deadline when the last day of performance of an act falls on a weekend or holiday in Chapter XXIV. [Amendment 61]
Attachments: [Attachment](#)
- E. [24-162](#) Amend the provision related to members of the city council paying taxes liabilities due the city in Chapter III § 3. [Amendment 62]
Attachments: [Attachment](#)
- F. [24-164](#) Amend language to allow the city to accrue liens on a monthly basis in Chapter XIX § 7. [Amendment 63]
Attachments: [Attachment](#)
- G. [24-165](#) Amend personnel appeal deadline to be consistent with personnel rules in Chapter XII §4, Chapter XIII § 9, Chapter XVI § 11(b). [Amendment 64]
Attachments: [Attachment](#)
- H. [24-166](#) Revise language clarifying that a civilian probationary period does not satisfy the requirement for sworn service probationary periods in Chapter XVI § 10(a). [Amendment 65]
Attachments: [Attachment](#)
- I. [24-167](#) Remove voter registration requirement for petitions in Chapter XVIII § 11(1). [Amendment 66]
Attachments: [Attachment](#)

*Amendment numbers refer to the full list of proposed amendments (numbered in the order of submission) [found at this link](#).

EXECUTIVE SESSION NOTICE

A closed executive session may be held if the discussion of any of the above agenda items concerns one of the following:

1. seeking the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.071]
2. deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the city in negotiations with a third person. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.072]
3. deliberating a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the city if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the city in negotiations with a third person. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.073]
4. deliberating the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee unless the officer or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.074]
5. deliberating the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices. [Tex. Govt. Code §551.076]
6. discussing or deliberating commercial or financial information that the city has received from a business prospect that the city seeks to have locate, stay or expand in or near the city and with which the city is conducting economic development negotiations; or deliberating the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect. [Tex Govt. Code §551.087]
7. deliberating security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology, network security information, or the deployment or specific occasions for implementations of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices. [Tex Govt. Code §551.089]

2023-24 Suggested Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

#	Suggested Amendment	Chapter	Section	Proposed By	I am submitting as a / on behalf of (select one):	Forum Proposed	Date	Category (by Submitter)	Rationale	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".	Multi		Jesse Moreno	Councilmember	Email/Memo	8/25/2023	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	9/21/2023	Policy		
3	Moving election date to November in odd-numbered years	IV	3	David de la Fuente	Commissioner	Call	9/21/2023	Policy		
4	Allow City Plan Commission to contain "a minimum of 15 members"			Planning and Urban Design (COD)	City Department		9/27/2023			
5	4-yr council terms, not staggered	III	1	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/2023	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	10/9/2023	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	10/9/2023	Policy		
8	Abolish council officer positions	III	11	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/2023	Technical	a. These have been utterly powerless by law since 2014 b. They're used 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	10/9/2023	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	10/9/2023	Operational		
11	Streamline judicial hiring	VIII	4	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/2023	Operational	a. Abolish JNC; council's ad hoc JN committee handles the whole process b. CAO to vet candidates and forward resumes for interview; candidates can appeal exclusion to council's ad hoc	
12	Council direct hires police and fire chiefs	XII/XIII		Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/2023	Policy		(will require amendments elsewhere also)
13	Clarify that council appointments are at-will	XXIV	13 and 17	Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/2023	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	10/9/2023	Policy		
15	Beef up civil service	XVI		Philip Kingston	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/9/2023	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	10/19/2023	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	10/25/2023	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	11/2/2023	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.	

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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 fighter/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) ARFF 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 all while maintaining the policies defined in the Daily Staffing procedure.	XIII		Jim McDade, DFFA	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	11/6/2023	Operational	This amendment would codify how the daily staffing is done on all fire apparatus in Dallas. The rationale is outlined in the National Fire Protection standards that we follow when it comes to response times and how apparatus respond.	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	11/6/2023	Policy		
22	Amend language "... On By the 15th day of August...."	XI	1	Terry Lowery	Commissioner	Email/Memo	11/9/2023	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.	
24	Remove Article 9, the requirement to have a Thoroughfare Plan, from the charter.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/2023	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.	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	11/21/2023	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.	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	11/21/2023	Policy	It is not enforced uniformly, and is only used to harass.	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	11/21/2023	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.	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	11/21/2023	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.	This is a Code amendment, not Charter
29	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 compliance. 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	11/21/2023	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.	This is a Code amendment, not Charter

2023-24 Suggested Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

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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 replaced.			Philip Goss	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/21/2023	Policy	Utility poles are an eyesore but also a huge impedance for mobility throughout the city. This would clear our sidewalks and also enhance the city. They would also great improve the resiliency of our grid during weather extremes as no trees would fall on power lines.	This is a Code amendment, not Charter
32	Tie 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 tie compensation of the Mayor to 135% of that amount.	III	4	P. Michael Jung	Commissioner	Email/Memo	11/27/2023	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	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, <u>has resided continuously in Texas for 12 months</u> , 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 <u>regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot</u> [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, <u>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</u> , must have resided in the city for a period of at least six months prior to the date of the <u>regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot</u> [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	11/29/2023	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 [TBD by 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	11/29/2023	Policy	This section should be modified based on if the Charter Review Commission recommends changing City Council terms.	

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37	Establish an Office of Ombudsman within the function of the City Auditor.			Marcus Wood	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	12/1/2023	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 eastern-most District 8 like old Kleberg. All too often that tail end of Dallas outside of IH 635 south of Balch Springs and Seagoville is treated as a forgotten town because it is just out there; very low income; Hispanic, Blacks, 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	12/4/2023	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, allows 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	12/4/2023	Policy	City Council elections of these officer positions [Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem] are divisive 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	12/4/2023	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.	
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 XI section 13?)		Cara Mendelsohn	Councilmember	Online Form	12/4/2023	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.	

2023-24 Suggested Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

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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	12/4/2023	Operational	The City Manager position must be eliminated. It produces nothing of benefit and is a hinderance to the operation of the city. The Position is unelected and not responsible 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 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		12/7/2023	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.	
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	12/10/2023	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	12/11/2023	Technical	This section is being recommended for deletion as the city secretary does not investigative ("fact finding") authority.	
46	To create, provide for, construct, regulate, and maintain all places of public amusement.	II	1	Derek A. White	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/11/2023	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 give 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	12/11/2023	Policy	It is common for planning commissioners 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 voted on 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; burdening residents who took time out of the day/off work only to be asked to come back later.	
48	The amendment is to change the term of the Municipal and Associate Judges from 2 year terms to either a 3-year or a 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	12/11/2023	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.	

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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	12/12/2023	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 3(b)(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 Culak	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/12/2023	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 inviolate 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	12/14/2023	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	12/14/2023	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 ratio 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	12/15/2023	Operational	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. Levels the playing field in elections for challengers which is good for democracy.	Chapter IV. Elections and Referendums New Section must by 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 unreimbursed campaign expenditures, may solicit and accept political contributions after the election until the unpaid expenses are paid and the unreimbursed 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	12/15/2023	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

2023-24 Suggested Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

#	Suggested Amendment	Chapter	Section	Proposed By	I am submitting as a / on behalf of (select one):	Forum Proposed	Date	Category (by Submitter)	Rationale	Notes
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 county election results.	XVIII	11	Albert Mata	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/15/2023	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. Tying 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	12/15/2023	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	12/20/2023	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."	IIIA	2	City Secretary's Office	City Department	Email/Memo	12/20/2023	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 member 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	12/28/2023	Policy	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/spreadsheets/d/1ghkeEvd8xlrDKB6NSL8fmJ4CGaTw4KyX/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103555023162459851198&rtfop=true&sd=true This is also a racial equity issue as elections in May see a higher voter turnout in majority white city council districts (6% 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). Resources 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	
60	"The City of Dallas shall honor its obligations." Please fund the Police and Fire Pensions, as promised and required by law.	XI		Susan Drake	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	12/28/2023	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 sinking 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.	III	1	City Attorney's Office/City Secretary's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/2024	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 <u>related to holding office</u> .	III	3	City Attorney's Office/City Secretary's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/2024	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	<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 [in] 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	1/5/2024	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	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	1/5/2024	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	1/5/2024	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	Change "registered voters" to "residents"	XVIII	11(1)	City Attorney's Office	City Department	Online Form	1/5/2024	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.			Maria Hasbany	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	1/5/2025	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.	

2023-24 Withdrawn Amendments Received to the Charter Review Commission

#	Reason for Withdrawal	Suggested Amendment	Chapter	Section	Proposed By	I am submitting as a / on behalf of (select one):	Forum Proposed	Date	Category	Rationale	Notes
16	Mr. Williams has withdrawn his amendment via email in order to support Mr. de la Fuente's RCV amendment.	Ranked Choice Voting for municipal elections	IV	11	Britton Williams	Resident/Stakeholder	Email/Memo	10/18/2023	Policy	RCV would avoid costly and inefficient runoff elections and would also allow Dallas voters to express their preferences more fairly.	
23	CAO and OHS discussed and determined this has already been addressed by prior actions.	Reverse a 1989 amendment, excluding City employees from certain housing programs. Specifically, "Prohibits city employees from participating in federally funded housing programs from the city".	XXII	11	Office of Homeless Solutions	City Department	Online Form	11/17/2023	Policy	In the past several months, the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) have been notified about several City employees experiencing homelessness. These have all been lower pay level employees. OHS believes that this is another barrier that should be removed. Especially for our own city employees.	
31	Withdrawn at the request of Mr. Mata.	Limit campaign expenditures for city council candidates during election cycles. Cap political expenditures for the six months preceding a general election up to and not to exceed \$1 per constituent, rounded to the nearest ten thousand. For a runoff election the limit shall be \$.50 dollars per constituent. Population as measured by the most recent decennial census of the United States. Expenses should be recognized at time services/products are delivered. The expenditure caps should be increased by 2% every election cycle so as to maintain spending power, ease of calculation. Calculation example: if district has 89,000 residents as of the 2020 census, then a candidate for city council May spend up to \$90,000. This is 89,000*1 and then rounded up to the nearest ten thousand, which is 90,000.	IV		Albert Mata	Resident/Stakeholder	Online Form	11/22/2023	Policy	Minimize the influence of money on local elections.	
33	Withdrawn at the request of the City Secretary.	Edit language to state that city council members "shall take office on the first Wednesday following the 30th calendar day after the final canvass of the general election," rather than the first Monday.	III	1	City Secretary's Office	City Department	Email/Memo	11/29/2023	Policy	This section is modified to avoid the inauguration date coinciding with the Juneteenth federal holiday.	
34	Withdrawn at the request of the City Secretary.	Delete language (strikethrough): "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. (Amend. of 11-8-05, Prop. No. 13)"	III	3	City Secretary's Office	City Department	Email/Memo	11/29/2023	Policy	This section is modified to comply with the Texas Attorney GeneralOpinion/Ruling	