



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2024

TITLE:

Discussion and direction to staff regarding proposed City of Bastrop Charter Amendments for the November 2024 election.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Submitted by: Sylvia Carrillo-Trevino, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

In 2022, the City Council faced numerous charter amendments, but ultimately decided not to pursue the cost of an election in an uncontested council election period. The existing charter calls for the charter to be reviewed at intervals not to exceed six (6) years.

Section 13.09 - Charter Amendment.

Proposed amendments to this Charter shall be framed and submitted to the voters of the City in the manner prescribed by state law.

The Council shall, at intervals not to exceed six (6) years, formally consider the need for revision(s) to the Charter. This review shall be based on a written report from the City Manager, with special attention given to conflicts, if any, between the Charter and state law, and recommending such amendments to the Charter as may seem necessary for legal, administrative or other reasons.

The existing amendments include:

PROPOSITION A

Shall Section 2.03 of the Charter be amended to conform with state law by removing reference to the City's power to annex territory without consent of the inhabitants?

PROPOSITION B

Shall Section 3.06(6) of the Charter be amended to conform with state law creating a vacancy on the city council when a council member announces their candidacy for certain elected offices and the unexpired term of the council member exceeds one year and thirty days?

PROPOSITION C

Shall Section 3.15(b) of the Charter be amended to authorize the city council to waive by an affirmative vote of four (4) or more Council Members the requirement that an ordinance be read in two separate meetings?

PROPOSITION D

Shall Section 3.16 of the Charter be amended to reflect the fact that codes of technical regulations are available to the public digitally and free of charge?

PROPOSITION E

Shall Section 3.17(b) of the Charter be amended to reflect the fact that ordinances are available to the public digitally and free of charge?

PROPOSITION F

Shall Section 5.02 of the Charter be amended to conform with state law by stating that the term of office of municipal court judges shall be provided for by ordinance?

PROPOSITION G

Shall Section 10.04 of the Charter be amended to conform with state law by requiring petitions calling for initiative or referendum elections to comply with the Texas Election Code?

PROPOSITION H

Shall Section 10.08 of the Charter be amended to conform with state law by requiring petitions calling for recall elections to comply with the Texas Election Code?

PROPOSITION I

Shall Section 12.01 of the Charter be amended to provide that the number of Planning and Zoning commissioners shall be established by ordinance?

PROPOSITION J

Shall Sections 14.03 and 14.04 of the Charter be repealed in their entirety as outdated, transitional provisions that are now irrelevant?

PROPOSITION K

Shall the Charter be amended throughout to replace gender -specific language with gender-neutral terminology?

PROPOSITION L

Shall Section 4.01 be amended to allow the City Manager to reside in the City Limits and the 1-mile extra-territorial jurisdiction?

PROPOSITION M

Shall section 3.08 be amended to allow the Mayor or 2 council members to appoint to boards and commissions subject to confirmation of the city council?

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approximately \$25,000 for a shared election expense.

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to prepare an ordinance considering the above mentioned charter amendments, and prepare for a November 2024 election.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution