

Potential Charter Amendment – 7 to 5 commissioners

Sec. 3.01. Creation, powers and composition of city council.

There shall be a city council with all the legislative powers of the city vested therein. The city council may by ordinance or resolution prescribe the manner in which any power of the city shall be exercised. Until the first Tuesday of April 2027, the city council shall consist of seven (7) commissioners; one residing in each of seven (7) election districts. Commencing on the first Tuesday of April 2027, the city council shall consist of five (5) commissioners; one residing in each of the five (5) election districts. The commissioners and mayor shall each be elected at large by the qualified voters of the city. The mayor shall be a non-voting member of the city council. The term city council in this Charter shall include the commissioners and the mayor.

Sec. 6.06. - Council districts; adjustment of district.

(A) Number of districts. Until the first Tuesday of April 2027, there shall be seven (7) city council districts. Commencing on the first Tuesday of April 2027 there shall be five (5) city council districts. Prior to the transition of the city council from seven to five commissioners, the city council shall adopt an ordinance establishing the five council districts and such redistricting is not required to follow the process as set forth in this section.

(B) Districting commission. By the first day of the month following official certification of the decennial census of the state, the city council shall appoint ~~eight (8)~~ five (5) city electors, determined from the registration for the last statewide general election, who shall comprise the districting commission. Electors chosen shall not be employed by the city in any other capacity.

(C) Report; specification. Within one hundred twenty (120) days of appointment, the districting commission shall file with the official designated by the council a report containing a recommended plan for adjustment of the council district boundaries to comply with these specifications:

(1) Each district shall be formed of compact, contiguous territory, and its boundary lines shall follow the centerlines of streets whenever possible.

(2) The districts shall be based upon the principle of equal and effective representation as required by the United States Constitution and as represented in the mathematical preciseness reached in the legislative apportionment of the state.

The report shall include a map and description of the districts recommended and shall be drafted as a proposed ordinance. Once filed with the designated official, the report shall be treated as an ordinance introduced by a commissioner.

(D) Support. It shall be the responsibility of the city manager to provide staff assistance and technical data to the districting commission.

(E) Procedure. The procedure for the council's consideration of the report shall be the same as for other ordinances, provided that if a summary of the ordinance is published pursuant to this charter and general law it must include both the map and a description of the recommended districts.

(F) Failure to enact ordinance. The council shall adopt a redistricting ordinance at least ninety (90) days before the next regular city election. If the council fails to do so by such date, the report of the districting commission shall go into effect and have the effect of an ordinance.

(G) Effect of enactment. The new council districts and boundaries, as of the date of enactment, shall supersede previous council districts and boundaries for all the purposes of the next regular city election. The new districts and boundaries shall supersede previous districts and boundaries for all other purposes as of the date on which all commissioners elected subsequent to the date the new districts went into effect take office.