



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Election Code Committee

STAFF

Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk
Cecilia Good, Senior Deputy City Clerk
Carrie Daggett, City Attorney
Ted Hewitt, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT

Proposed Election Code Changes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to propose election-related Code changes for the Committee's consideration.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Does the Committee have feedback related to the proposed Code changes?
2. Does the Committee have any concerns about bringing forward the proposed changes for consideration by the entire Council?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The following are proposed Code changes for the Committee's review:

1. Modernization:
 - a. Stylistic changes throughout, including changing passive voice to active voice and improving the precision of requirements by changing "shall" or "shall not" to "must," "will" or "may not" as appropriate
2. Cross-References:
 - a. Cross-references have been updated throughout to ensure accuracy.
3. Non-Applicable Section Removal – Sections 7-136(c)(1)(a) and (m) and Section 7-191(b):
 - a. Provisions are being removed that were only applicable to previous elections.
4. Precinct Map – Section 7-71:
 - a. Currently, Section 7-71 of the City code requires the City Clerk to review precinct boundaries whenever the County amends its precinct boundaries and recommend precinct boundary changes to City Council. This Section is amended to authorize rather than require the City Clerk to review the new boundaries and make recommendations to City Council.
5. Redistricting – Section 7-87:

- a. Currently, Section 7-87 requires the City Clerk to review population deviations in Council districts whenever the City Clerk reviews precinct boundaries. This requirement is removed.
 - b. It also requires the City Clerk to recommend appropriate district boundaries within 18 months of the federal census and to review district boundaries for population deviations at least once within six years after redistricting. This requirement remains unchanged; however, the ability for Council to direct a review of population deviations is added to this Section.
6. Campaign Definitions – Section 7-132:
 - a. The definition of “contribution” does not currently include contributions to small-scale issue committees. A contribution to a small-scale issue committee is added to the definition of “contribution”.
 7. Campaign Contributions/Expenditures – Section 7-135:
 - a. Electronic Contributions: In Section 7-135(e) a reference to “Paypal” is removed as existing law covers payment intermediary services.
 8. Independent Expenditures – Section 7-139:
 - a. The requirement for a person making independent expenditures of \$2,500 or more to register as an issue committee or a political committee is removed. These persons will have to disclose independent expenditures under the requirements of the existing code. Additionally, a requirement to disclose the source of independent expenditures is added.

Staff’s goal is to have changes implemented by Q1 2027. This would mean first and second readings before Council would occur in the December 2026/January 2027 timeframe.

The Committee will start reviewing proposed Charter changes once all proposed Code changes have been reviewed. Possible Charter changes include:

- Number of signatures required on nomination petitions.
- Term for Mayor.
- Timing of regular elections.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation