



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Election Code Committee

STAFF

Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant City Manager
Heather Walls, Interim City Clerk
Rita Knoll, Chief Deputy City Clerk
Tyler Robbins, Business Analyst I/Elections
Sara Arfmann, Legal
Carrie Daggett, Legal

SUBJECT

Planning Future Work for the Election Code Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015, prior to formally establishing the Election Code Committee (ECC), Council appointed an Ad Hoc Council Committee to review recent changes in relevant election rules, laws, policies and procedures to make recommendations of possible City Code and City Charter changes for further discussion by Council. The Committee was formally established in 2017 as a standing Council Committee.

In February 2024, Council appointed Mayor Jeni Arndt and Councilmembers Tricia Canonico and Julie Pignataro to serve as members of the ECC and Councilmember Melanie Potyondy to serve as an alternate.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Election of the ECC Chair
2. What topics would ECC like to consider for discussion in 2024-2025 and in what priority order?
3. What meeting cadence would the Committee like to follow going forward?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

2021-2023 ECC Accomplishments

The previous ECC met from April 2021 to January 2023. Typically, ECC work is paused to allow for its recommendations to be considered by Council prior to elections. The accomplishments of this past ECC include the following:

- Per the U.S. Constitution, a census occurs every 10 years which results in the need for redistricting. The Committee looked at various options; however, no Code update has yet moved forward to address the current redistricting requirements.
- Updates to and adoption of new campaign finance provisions

- A Charter amendment (which was approved by voters) shifting the City's regular municipal elections from each odd-year in April to each odd-year in November
- A Charter amendment (which was approved by voters) requiring that for all regular city elections conducted after January 1, 2025, the offices of Mayor and each District Councilmember will be elected using a ranked voting method

A comprehensive summary of accomplishments from 2015 to present is included as an attachment.

2024 ECC Potential Topics

The three topics that were identified by the previous ECC and did not move forward include the following.

- Public Financing of Elections
- Election Oversight Board
- Partisan/non-partisan elections

In addition, staff has compiled a list of potential topics based on feedback heard from Councilmembers as well as recommendations from staff. This list is included as an attachment.

Staff is also prepared to debrief with ECC the campaign finance complaint process to include a brief overview of the process, some examples, and staff recommendations to improve the process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Election Code Committee Accomplishments, 2015-date
2. Potential Topics for 2024
3. Presentation