

EXECUTIVE BRIEF REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: November 2, 2021

DEPARTMENT: City Commission

TITLE:

Ordinance No. 2021-23 – First Reading – Ballot language for changing the stipulation regarding the number of votes needed for a candidate to be duly-elected

SUMMARY:

The ordinance provides a referendum question for the March 8, 2022, General Election to change from requiring a candidate to receive a majority of votes cast in order to be elected to allowing a candidate who receives at least 40% plus 1 of the votes cast to be elected.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

At the October 5, 2021 regular City Commission meeting, the Charter Review Committee presented recommendations regarding potential ballot questions. In order to reduce the number of run-off elections in the city, the committee members recommended changing the number of votes needed for a candidate to be elected.

According to the Charter's Article V – Qualifications and Elections, Section 4 – General, special and run-off elections, the candidate receiving a majority (50% plus 1) of the votes cast at such election to fill such office shall be declared to be duly elected; provided that in the event no candidate for a particular elective office shall receive a majority of the votes cast at such election to fill such office, then a run-off election shall be held two (2) weeks after the original election to elect a candidate to fill such office. The Charter Review Committee members suggested changing the Charter from 50% plus 1 to 40% plus 1 which would still indicate strong support of a candidate, but could eliminate some of the City's costly run-off elections.

The Commission gave consensus to move forward with a ballot question regarding changing the election criteria to 40% plus 1 at the October 19, 2021 regular meeting.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove Ordinance 2021-23 on first reading and set the second reading and public hearing for November 16, 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis – N/A
Ordinance 2021-23