

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING THE CALLING AND HOLDING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF NORMAN, COUNTY OF CLEVELAND, STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2022, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF NORMAN THE QUESTION OF APPROVING OR REJECTING ORDINANCE O-2122-45, WHICH ORDINANCE AMENDS ARTICLE II, SECTION 1 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN BY INCREASING THE STIPEND RECEIVED BY COUNCILMEMBERS AND THE MAYOR AND CREATING A COMPENSATION COMMISSION; AMENDS SECTIONS 2, 5, 6, AND 14 OF ARTICLE II OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN TO INCREASE COUNCILMEMBER TERMS FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS BEGINNING WITH THE 2026 ELECTIONS, CHANGING THE BEGINNING OF THE COUNCILMEMBER AND MAYORAL TERMS TO FOLLOW THE DESIGNATED RUN-OFF ELECTION DATE BEGINNING WITH THE 2025 WARD ELECTIONS AND THE 2028 MAYORAL ELECTION, AND REQUIRING WARD REPRESENTATIVES TO LIVE IN THE WARD SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO SEEKING ELECTION AND PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS WHEN WARD BOUNDARIES CHANGE; AMENDS SECTION 22 OF ARTICLE II OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN TO CLARIFY THAT VACANCIES ON COUNCIL FILLED BY COUNCIL VOTE SHALL BE FILLED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM IN QUESTION; ADDS ARTICLE V PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE CITY AUDITOR BY CITY COUNCIL, SETTING FOR THE DUTIES OF THE CITY AUDITOR, AND PROVIDING FOR THE RENUMBERING OF SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES; AMENDS SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE VII PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE CITY ATTORNEY BY CITY COUNCIL INSTEAD OF THE CITY MANAGER; AMENDS SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE IX TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS ON THE NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FROM NINE TO ELEVEN AND ALLOWING A MAXIMUM OF TWO BOARD MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES; AMENDS SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5 OF ARTICLE XIII OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN TO LIMIT THE TIME OF COMMENCING RECALL PROCEEDINGS, TO MODIFY THE PROCESS TO BE CONSISTENT OKLAHOMA STATE LAW, AND TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO REVIEW PETITIONS WHEN MULTIPLE PETITIONS ARE RECEIVED; AMENDS SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE XVI TO ALLOW CITY COUNCIL TO IMPOSE A MAXIMUM THREE PERCENT (3%) INCREASE IN UTILITY RATES ONLY AFTER A RATE STUDY AND A RECOMMENDATION FROM A UTILITY RATE COMMISSION; AND AMENDS SECTIONS 2, 3, 4 AND 5 OF ARTICLE XX

MODIFYING DEADLINES AND PROCESS FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT  
AD HOC COMMITTEE IN CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE'S TIMELINE  
FOR MODIFYING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES AND LIMITING COUNCIL'S  
ACTION ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION; AND PROVIDING  
FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

- § 1. WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-1819-66, as amended, was adopted by the Council of the City of Norman on July 23, 2019 and established a Charter Review Commission to conduct a targeted review of the Norman City Charter; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, the Charter Review Commission presented ten (10) recommendations for amendments to the City Charter to the City Council on August 3, 2021; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, on August 3, 2021, the Council voted affirmatively to place five (5) of the recommendations on an election ballot for consideration by the voters, and asked for further discussion on the remaining five (5) recommendations of the Charter Review Commission; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, on August 24, 2021, the Council, after additional discussion, reached consensus to place two (2) additional recommendations of the Charter Review Commission on an election ballot for consideration by the voters; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, on January 4, 2022, the Council had additional discussion on two additional recommendations of the Charter Review Commission, as well as a discussion about the Reapportionment Process, and reached consensus to place one (1) additional recommendation of the Charter Review Commission, modify and place an additional question initially considered by the Charter Review Consideration, and place changes to the Reapportionment Process outlined in the Charter on a ballot for consideration by the voters.
- § 6. WHEREAS, on May 3, 2022, Council had additional discussion on the proposed Charter changes and ballot language and provided direction to include the addition of a City Auditor position to the Charter; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 12, Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Norman, said amendments must be submitted to the registered voters of the City for their approval before the same become effective.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

§ 8. PROPOSITION I

Shall Section 1 of Article II of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to increase the annual stipend for the Mayor from a maximum of \$1,200 to \$8,100 beginning in 2025 and for Councilmembers from a maximum of \$1,200 to \$5,400 beginning in 2025 and

providing for a Compensation Commission to be appointed to determine any future increases every three years based on the consumer price index, the City's budget, and other relevant factors, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 9. **PROPOSITION II**

Shall Sections 2, 5, 6, and 14 of Article II of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to increase Councilmember terms from two to three years beginning with terms in 2026; to change the beginning of Councilmember and Mayoral terms from the first Tuesday of July to the first Tuesday following scheduled run-off elections beginning in 2026 for the Councilmember positions and 2028 for the Mayor position; and to require those seeking election to a Councilmember position be residents of the ward for which they seek office for six months; and providing exceptions when ward boundaries are changed, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 10. **PROPOSITION III**

Shall Section 22 of Article II of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to clarify that vacancies on City Council that are filled by majority vote of the City Council are filled for the balance of the unexpired term of the vacant position, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 11. **PROPOSITION IV**

Shall Article V be added, and subsequent Articles be renumbered accordingly, to the Charter of the City of Norman to create the position of Municipal Auditor to be appointed by the City Council by at least an affirmative vote of five (5) members; to establish the City Auditor's employment status as an at-will employee; to provide a process for an interim City Auditor to be appointed in case of the absence or disability of the City Auditor; to provide a process for Councilmembers to request discussion and/or consideration of the removal or suspension of the City Auditor to be placed on the agenda of a regularly or specially scheduled meeting; and to describe the duties of the City Auditor, as more particularly described in Ordinance No. O-2122-45?

§ 12. **PROPOSITION V**

Shall Section 2 of Article VII of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to change the City Attorney to an at-will employee hired by majority vote of the City Council instead of hired by the City Manager and confirmed by City Council; to provide a process for an interim City Attorney to be appointed in case of the absence or disability of the City Attorney; to provide a process for Councilmembers to request discussion and/or consideration of the removal or suspension of the City Attorney to be placed on the agenda of a regularly or specially scheduled meeting, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 12.

## PROPOSITION VI

Shall Section 1 of Article IX of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to increase the number of board members for the Norman Regional Hospital Authority Board from nine to eleven and allowing for a maximum of two board members to be appointed from other communities in which Norman Regional Hospital Authority operates at least one facility, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 13.

## PROPOSITION VII

Shall Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Article XIII of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to set forth a timeframe in which an elected municipal official can be recalled, amends procedures to be consistent with State law, to provide additional time for review of recall petitions when a recall petition for Mayor or multiple petitions are undergoing inspection concurrently, to provide for a majority vote of remaining Councilmembers to take any action if there are more than four vacancies on Council as a result of a recall election, and to require City Council to call an election to fill any vacancy created by a successful recall for the next available election date, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 14.

## PROPOSITION VIII

Shall Section 2 of Article XVI of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to allow utility rate increases of no more than three percent to be adopted by City Council rather than by submittal to the registered voters of Norman, but only after a rate study and review by an appointed Utility Rate Commission having a representative appointed from each ward and one at-large, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 15.

## PROPOSITION IX

Shall Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Article XX of the Charter of the City of Norman be amended to modify the deadlines and process for the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee to review census data and reapportion wards to be more similar to the State's timeline for modifying precinct boundaries, and to limit Council action on the recommendations of the Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee to either 1) adopt proposed ward boundaries without modification, 2) reject proposed boundaries, or 3) refer the proposed boundaries back to the Committee for further consideration, as more particularly described in Ordinance O-2122-45?

§ 16. That the remaining portions of the Articles and Sections referred to herein shall remain unchanged.

§ 17. That the amendments of the City Charter proposed herein shall be effective provided by law.

§ 18. **Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this resolution is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent

jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

NOT ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Breea D. Clark, Mayor

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Breea D. Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Hall, City Clerk