



Charter Review Commission 2024 Final Report

June 18, 2024

Charter Review Commission

1. In the City Charter, it states in Section 12.03 Charter Review Commission, the City Council shall periodically appoint a Charter Review Commission which shall consist of no less than 5 and no more than 11 citizens of the City. It shall be the duty of the Commission to: Inquire into the operation of the City government under the Charter provisions and determine whether any such provisions require revision and, to this end, public hearings may be held and the Commission shall have the power to compel the attendance of any officer or employee of the City to require the submission of City records which it may consider necessary to the conduct of such hearing.
2. Make any recommendations it considers desirable to insure compliance with the provisions of this Charter by the various departments of the City.
3. Propose amendments to this Charter to improve its effective application to current conditions.
4. Report its findings and present its proposed amendments, if any, to the City Council. The City Council shall receive any report submitted by the Charter Review Commission, may comment on any proposed amendment recommendations made, and, if any amendment or amendments are presented as a part of such report, shall order such to be submitted to the voters of the City in the manner provided in Section 12.04.
5. The term of office of the Charter Review Commission shall be 180 days after the date of the first meeting, said first meeting to occur within forty-five (45) days of the date of appointment. If during this term no report is presented to the City Council, then all records of the proceedings of the Commission shall be filed with the City Manager and the Charter Review Commission shall be dismissed.

Charter Review Commission

On December 5, 2024, the City Council approved Resolution 23-R-67 and called for a Charter Review. The Charter Review Commission had 11 Commissioners appointed:

Chair Dana Eldridge

Vice-Chair Richard Dzewit

Mr. Paul Wiley

Mr. David Bennett

Mr. Marcus Forte

Mr. Demetric Herron

Dr. Roger L. Booker

Mr. Chris Evans

Ms. Michele Tereletsy

Ms. Danielle Craig

Mr. Benjamin Guerrero

Proposed Propositions

Measure A

Sec. 1.02. Boundaries; Extension, Annexation and Disannexation.

(b) The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to annex territory in accordance with State Law, lying adjacent to the City, with or without the consent of the owners or inhabitants thereof, thereby extending and enlarging the bounds and limits of the City. ~~Such annexations shall be limited and controlled by the applicable annexation laws of the State.~~

Proposition A

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to specify all annexations shall be in accordance with State Law?

Charter Review 2024

Measure B

Sec. 1.02. Boundaries; Extension, Annexation and Disannexation.

(c)(ii) Before the 10th day before the hearing date before the Planning and Zoning Commission, written notice of the public hearing shall be sent to each owner, as indicated by the most recently approved municipal tax roll, of real property within ~~200~~ 1000 feet of the area to be disannexed. The notice may be served by its deposit in the United States mail, properly addressed with postage paid.

Proposition B

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to increase the area for notification of disannexation from 200 feet to 1,000 feet from the area to be disannexed?

Charter Review 2024

Measure C

Sec. 4.04-Compensation.

Members of the City Council shall serve with such compensation as determined by the City Council. An increase in compensation shall not be effective for any member of the City Council during the term ~~for which he or she was elected, and the increase was approved~~ in which the increase is effectuated. Payment of expenses incurred in performance of official duty may be approved by the City Council.

Proposition C

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to clarify that any increase in city council compensation is not effective for members of the city council during the term which the increase is effectuated?

Charter Review 2024

Measure D

Sec. 4.05-Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

The Mayor shall be the official head of the City government. He or she shall be the chairman and shall preside at all meetings of the City Council. The Mayor may vote only in the event of a tie. He or she shall, unless another signatory is otherwise designated by the City Council, sign all official documents such as ordinances, resolutions, conveyances, grant agreements, ~~official plats~~, contracts, and bonds. He or she shall appoint special committees as instructed by City Council, with committee membership to be composed of nominees by the City Council. He or she shall perform such other duties consistent with this Charter or as may be imposed upon him or her by City Council. The Mayor shall not have veto powers.

Proposition D

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to remove the signing of plats from the list of official documents required to be signed by the Mayor?

Charter Review 2024

Measure E

Sec. 4.07-Prohibitions.

(a) Holding other Office. No Mayor or Councilmember shall hold any compensated City office, nor hold or employment with the city until two (2) years after the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected to the City Council.

Proposition E

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to clarify that no Mayor or Council Member may be employed by the City until two years after the expiration of their term of office?

Charter Review 2024

Measure F

Sec. 4.09-Meetings and Procedures.

~~(c) Quorum. Three Councilmembers (excluding the Mayor) shall constitute a quorum, and no action shall be valid unless adopted by the affirmative vote of three or more members of the City Council. If the Mayor Pro Tem is presiding, he or she shall be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.~~

(c) Quorum. Four Councilmembers (excluding the Mayor) shall constitute a quorum, and no action shall be valid unless adopted by the affirmative vote of four or more members of the City Council. If the Mayor Pro Tem is presiding, he or she shall be counted for purposes of determining a quorum. [EFFECTIVE THE FIRST REGULAR CITY COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 2016 THAT CONSISTS OF SEVEN CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS]

Proposition F

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to remove unnecessary language?

Charter Review 2024

Measure G

Sec. 4.09-Meetings and Procedures.

~~(e) Passage of Ordinances and Resolutions. Ordinances and resolutions shall be introduced to the City Council only in written or printed form. The subject or subjects of all ordinances and resolutions shall be clearly expressed in the title. Passage of any Ordinance or Resolution shall only require one reading. Except as may otherwise be prescribed in this Charter, an ordinance shall not be passed at the meeting of the City Council at which it is first introduced, but instead the ordinance or its caption shall be read, and the City Council will determine whether it shall be rejected or further considered at a subsequent meeting of the City Council. If rejected, no further action shall be required. The City Council must take second and final consideration of any ordinance not later than sixty days after the first reading of such ordinance. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, if the City Council, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at the meeting at which an ordinance is first introduced, determines that an emergency exists requiring immediate action, such ordinance may then be voted upon and rejected or passed at that meeting. The enacting clause of all ordinances shall be, "BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCHERTZ, TEXAS", and every ordinance shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and the City Secretary and shall be systematically recorded and indexed in an ordinance book in a manner approved by the City Council.~~

Proposition G

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to require that passage of an ordinance or resolution require one reading?

Charter Review 2024

Measure H

Sec. 5.01-Appointment; Qualifications; Compensation.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager and fix his or her compensation. He or she shall be chosen on the basis of his or her executive and administrative training, experience, ability, and character. He or she need not be a resident of the City or State at the time of his or her appointment, but he or she must agree, prior to such appointment, to become a resident of the City. ~~within four months after the date of his or her appointment. If he or she thereafter fails to become a resident of the City within that four month period, he or she shall be deemed to have forfeited his or her appointment and the office shall be declared vacant by announcement of the Mayor at the first meeting of the City Council following the expiration of the four month period.~~ The City Manager shall serve at the will and pleasure of the City Council. He or she shall be employed for or relieved from his or her duties by a vote of a majority of the members of the entire City Council.

Proposition H

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to remove the requirement that the city manager become a resident of the city within four months after the date of his or her appointment?

Charter Review 2024

Measure I

Sec. 5.03-Powers and Duties of City Manager.

(j) He or she shall keep a written inventory of all real property and all permanent equipment belonging to the City, said inventory to be subject to annual audit. ~~A system shall be established to control the use and replacement of expendable items.~~

Proposition I

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to remove the requirement for the city manager to establish a system to control the use and replacement of expendable items?

Charter Review 2024

Measure J

Sec. 6.06-City Secretary.

(a) The City Council shall appoint a City Secretary who shall act as Secretary of the City Council and who shall hold office at the pleasure of the City Council. The City Secretary shall be the clerical officer of the City Council, and shall keep the minutes, agenda, ordinances and other official records of the City Council and the City. The City Secretary shall be the custodian of the official seal of the City and shall have such other duties and powers prescribed in this Charter and by the City Council. The City Council will set the compensation for the City Secretary. ~~The City Secretary shall report administratively to the City Manager but may be removed from office only by the City Council.~~

Proposition J

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to remove the requirement for the city secretary to report administratively to the city manager?

Charter Review 2024

Measure K

Sec. 10.03-Petitions.

(a) *Number of Signatures.* Initiative and referendum petitions must be signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least ten (10) ~~fifteen (15)~~ percent of the number of voters registered to vote at the last general City election. Recall petitions must be signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least twenty (20) percent of the number of voters registered to vote at the last general City election.

Proposition K

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to change the percentage of voters required to sign an initiative or referendum petition from fifteen percent to ten percent?

Charter Review 2024

Measure L

Sec. 10.03-Petitions.

(a) *Number of Signatures.* Initiative and referendum petitions must be signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least fifteen (15) percent of the number of voters registered to vote at the last general City election. Recall petitions must be signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least fifteen (15) ~~twenty (20)~~ percent of the number of voters registered to vote at the last general City election.

Proposition L

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to change the percentage of voters required to sign a recall petition from twenty percent fifteen percent?

Charter Review 2024

Measure M

Sec. 12.03-Charter Review Commission.

The City Council shall ~~periodically~~ appoint a Charter Review Commission not later than five years after the most recent Charter Review Commission was appointed which shall consist of no less than 5 and no more than 11 citizens of the City.

Proposition M

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to require the city council appoint a charter review commission not later than five years after the most recent charter review commission?

Charter Review 2024

Measure N

Sec. 12.03-Charter Review Commission.

~~The City Council shall periodically appoint a Charter Review Commission which shall consist of no less than 5 and no more than 11. Each Councilmember shall appoint one member to the Charter Review Commission and the Mayor shall appoint two members to the Charter Review Commission, one who shall serve as the Chair. The members of the Charter Review Commission shall be citizens of the City.~~

Proposition N

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to provide that each member of the city council appoints a citizen to the charter review commission and the mayor appoints two citizens to the charter review commission, one of which shall be the chair?

Charter Review 2024

Measure O

Sec. 1.02. Boundaries; Extension, Annexation and Disannexation.

iii. Not later than 30 days after the ~~of~~ completion of the public hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission the City Council shall hold a public hearing on the proposed disannexation. Before the 15th day before the date of the public hearing, a general description of the property to be disannexed and notice of the time and place of the hearing must be published in an official newspaper or a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

Proposition O

Shall the City Charter of the City of Schertz be amended to clarify that City Council shall hold a public hearing on a proposed disannexation not later than 30 days after the public hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission?

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS