



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

CM/DCM/ACM: Sara Hensley

DATE: January 14, 2025

SUBJECT

An ordinance ordering a special election for the purpose of submitting proposed charter amendments to the registered voters of the City of Denton replacing all instances of gendered language with non-gendered language; resolving conflicts with state law and modifying vague or unclear language, and increasing the term of the Municipal Judge from two years to four years; to be held on May 3, 2025; prescribing the time, manner, and conduct of the special election in accordance with a Joint Election Agreement and contract for election services with the Election Administrator; prescribing the form of the ballot; and providing an effective date.

BACKGROUND

The Denton City Charter was originally adopted in February 1959. Section 14-13 of the Charter states that amendments to the charter may be framed and submitted to the voters subject to requirements of the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 9, and all other applicable laws. Since its original adoption, the charter was further amended in 1976, 1980, 1999, 2006, 2009, and 2017.

On June 4, 2024, the City Council approved Resolution 24-1158 to create the Charter Review Committee and issue the charges put forward by the Council. The Charter Review Committee held eight regular meetings between July and November to review and consider the charges. Each charge included consideration of a staff presentation, Committee discussion, and ultimately an official vote of the Committee to create the recommendations of the Committee to return to Council for consideration.

On December 3, 2024, Council considered the recommendations provided by the Charter Review Committee and provided direction on the recommendations to be put forward in a Charter Amendment Election. The Council concurred with three of the Committee's recommendations; replacing all instances of gendered language with non-gendered language; resolving conflicts with state law and modifying vague or unclear language; and increasing the term of the Municipal Judge from two years to four years.

The Council Rules of Procedure 2-29 Part (i) Section (1)(a) require an ordinance submitting proposed Charter amendments to be adopted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the council. Texas Local Government Code Section 9.004 requires that Charter Amendments be published with a substantial copy of the proposed amendments and an estimate of the fiscal impact to the City if passed. Texas Election Code Section 272.011 requires that certain municipalities provide bilingual election materials.

The ballot language, explanation, and fiscal impact estimates for the proposed three (3) amendments are included in the attached ordinance (**Exhibit 2**) for City Council consideration.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

Nov. 3, 2022: Agenda Committee Discussion
Dec. 6, 2022: City Council Work Session
Aug. 15, 2023: 2-Minute Policy Pitch
Dec. 5, 2023: City Council Work Session
Jan. 9, 2024: City Council Work Session
Feb. 20, 2024: City Council Work Session
Mar. 19, 2024: City Council Work Session
Apr. 2, 2024: City Council Work Session
Apr. 16, 2024: City Council Work Session
May 7, 2024: City Council Work Session
May 21, 2024: City Council Work Session
June 4, 2024: City Council Individual Consideration Ordinance
Dec. 3, 2024: City Council Work Session

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Ordinance & Exhibits
3. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
Kristi Fogle
Chief of Staff