



City of Denton

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

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Judge

CM/DCM/ACM: N/A

DATE: May 7, 2024

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding Municipal Judge term to be discussed by a future Charter Review Committee.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This action supports Key Focus Area: Pursue Organizational Excellence and Collaborative and Respectful Leadership, Support Healthy and Safe Communities

BACKGROUND

By default, a City Council can appoint a Municipal Court Judge to a two-year term of office. The Texas Constitution allows a City Council to appoint a Municipal Court Judge to a four-year term of office if the longer term is provided for in the city's charter.

If approved by the voters, adding the following provision to Section 6.03 would allow the Council to provide a four-year term for the Presiding Judge and Alternate Judges: "The municipal court judges shall serve a term of four years."

Advocates of a four-year term believe they provide stability for judges, continuity for staff and the community, flexibility when planning for long-term court projects, and an increased sense of judicial independence for court users.

The Cities of Austin, Houston, Plano and El Paso have adopted charter amendments providing their Municipal Court Judges with four-year terms.

OPTIONS

- (1) Council can provide direction to the Charter Review Committee to consider changing the term to 4 years through the Charter Committee process.
- (2) Take no action.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
C. Tyler Atkinson
Presiding Judge
Denton Municipal Court