



# Charter - Judge Term

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**Judge Atkinson**

**May 7, 2024**



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## **Texas Gov't Code Sec. 29.005. TERM OF OFFICE.**

“The judge of a municipal court serves for a term of office of two years unless the municipality provides for a longer term pursuant to Article XI, Section 11, of the Texas Constitution.”

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# City of Denton – Charter, Section 6.03

Request to Propose Addition of:

(e) The municipal court judges shall serve a term of four years.

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## City of Denton – Code Section 19-36

b)The terms of office for the municipal court judge and any assistant judges shall be two (2) years from the date of appointment. The municipal court judge shall be appointed in even-numbered years, and any assistant judges shall be appointed in odd-numbered years.

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# Other Cities with Four Year Judge Terms

- Austin Municipal Court
- Houston Municipal Court
- Plano Municipal Court
- El Paso Municipal Court

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# Benefits of Longer Term

- **Stability for Judges**
- **Continuity for Staff and Community**
- **Long Term Planning and Projects**
- **Judicial Independence**

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# Questions?

# Council Discussion

Option 1: Council can provide direction to the Charter Review Committee to modify Section 6.03 through the Charter Committee process

Option 2: No direction to the Charter Review Committee regarding Section 6.03

