



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: March 19, 2024

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding potential subject matter to be discussed by a future Charter Review Committee.

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 Dec. 5, 2023, the City Council received direction to move forward with a Charter Amendment Election process, which would include a Charter Review Committee.

On Jan. 9, 2024, staff received additional direction for staff to plan for a May 2025 election, scheduling elements of the process accordingly, and direction that the Charter Review Committee would be composed of 14 members.

On Feb. 20, 2024, the City Council provided direction to move forward with several priority sections of the Charter for Council to review at subsequent work sessions.

General Charter Review and Amendment Process:

The City of Denton intends to use the following general process in holding a Charter Amendment Election:

1. **Council Direction to Begin Process.** At the Council's direction, staff will initiate the charter review process and develop information and decision points for council discussion and consideration.
2. **Develop Charter Review Committee Charges.** The Council will discuss elements of the Charter that it wishes to direct the Charter Review Committee to evaluate and potential proposals to consider. These discussions will generally be spread across multiple work sessions.
3. **Charter Review Committee Work.** The Charter Review Committee, after being established and appointed by Council, will meet to receive information, deliberate options, and ultimately make recommendations to the Council regarding which amendments to place on the ballot. A benefit of the committee is that residents participate in the process and provide direct input to the Council.
4. **Council Review and Decision.** Through a series of one or more work sessions, the Council will receive, review, and discuss the recommendations of the committee. The Council may accept, amend, or reject committee recommendations. If a consensus on one or more amendments is reached, the Council may adopt an ordinance that calls an election on the next available uniform election date and outlines the specific text amendments that will be placed on the ballot.

Objectives for Work Session:

The objectives for this work session are:

1. Council will receive a review of the current provisions in Sections 2.01 and 2.02 of the City Charter.
2. Staff will provide best practices, industry recommendations, and other considerations.
3. Council will discuss and provide direction to the forthcoming Charter Review Committee.
4. Questions will be notated and answered through the committee process.

The current schedule allows for four (4) work sessions to develop the components of the Charter Review Committee Charge. The first of which will be held at the March 19, 2024 Work Session Meeting of City Council.

In addition to the areas that the Council gives direction to discuss, staff also recommends that the following are included in the charge to the Charter Review Committee:

1. Resolution of conflicts with state law, where applicable
2. Resolution of vague/unclear language, where applicable
3. Replacement of gendered language with non-gendered language

Next Steps:

Staff will continue to hold additional work sessions, in the sequence specified by Council, to review specific provisions under each Charter area and receive direction on any Charter Review Committee Charges.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff will receive direction for specific Charter Review Committee charges.

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

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Presentation
3. City of Denton Charter

Respectfully submitted:
Kristi Fogle
Chief of Staff