



Charter Review Committee



Public Comment

Meeting Agenda

- July 25 Meeting Minutes
- Chair Election
- Public eComment
- Modify the mix of single member and at-large districts
- Additional council seats based on population size and projected growth





Chair & Chair Pro Tem

Election



Public eComment

Discussion and direction

Article II. The Council

Sec. 2.01. Number, selection and term

Sec. 2.02. Qualifications

Sec. 2.03. Presiding officer: Mayor and mayor pro tem

Sec. 2.04. Vacancies in council

Sec. 2.05. Meetings of the council

Sec. 2.06. Quorum, voting

Sec. 2.07. Rules of procedure, minutes

Sec. 2.08. Powers of the council

Sec. 2.09. Ordinances

Sec. 2.10. Council not to interfere in appointments or removals

Sec. 2.11. Employee bonds

Sec. 2.12. City secretary

Sec. 2.13. Independence annual audit



Charge D:

Modify the mix of single and at-large districts

Current Provision

Section 2.01. Number, selection and term

- (a) The city council shall have seven (7) members, six (6) councilpersons and a mayor. The manner of their election is prescribed herein. Each councilperson shall be elected to and occupy a place on the council, such places being numbered one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5) and six (6). The mayor's position on the council shall be place seven (7).
- (b) Four (4) members of the council whose positions shall be places one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4), shall be residents of and elected by the qualified voters of single-member geographical districts of the city, known as districts one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4), as such districts may from time to time be determined by the city council in accordance with Section 2.01(d), and created and described by ordinance. Two (2) members of the council and the mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire city, commonly known as at large. One (1) at large member, place five (5), shall be a resident of district one (1) or two (2), and one (1) at large member, place six (6), shall be a resident of district three (3) or four (4).

Current Provision Explained

- The city council consists of seven members, six councilpersons and a mayor.
- Four members of the council shall be from single-member geographical districts, known as districts one, two, three, and four.
- Two members of the council and the mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire city, commonly known as at-large.
 - One at-large member, place five, should be a resident of district one or two.
 - One at large member, place six, should be a resident of district three or four.

Considerations

- **Council History:** The current makeup of Council, including the mix of single and at-large districts, has been in place since the Charter Election of 1980.
- **Redistricting:** Every 10 years, following the results of the US Census, the City of Denton can review its City Council districts to determine if population changes would require district lines to be redrawn.
 - In October 2021, the City Council directed staff to move forward with redistricting, and a Public Input Period began on Oct. 27 and ended Dec. 7.
 - On December 14, 2021, the City Council approved the redistricting of the City's single-member Council districts.
 - The redistricting process utilized outside legal counsel to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act and other state and federal laws.

Considerations

Best Practice Recommendations:

- National Civic League Model Charter:
 - Districts or a mix of at-large and district seats.
 - The mixed system for a council with members elected at large and members elected by and from districts has become increasingly popular since the U. S. Department of Justice approved it as a method of electing the city council that is compliant with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.
 - Some at-large Councils have been found in violation of the Civil Rights Act and should only be used in small, homogenous communities.

Legal Considerations:

- Modifying the mix of single and at-large districts will require outside legal counsel review for Voting Rights Act implications.

Surrounding City Comparison

City	Population*	# of Members	Districts/At-Large	Estimated population per district
Denton	142,262	7	4 districts/3 at-large	35,566 (4 districts)
Addison	17,026	7	At-Large	N/A
Arlington	393,469	9	5 districts/4 at-large	78,694 (5 districts)
Carrollton	132,284	8	At-Large	N/A
Frisco	202,075	7	At-Large	N/A
Irving	254,962	9	6 districts/3 at-large	42,494 (6 districts)
Lewisville	125,028	7	At-Large**	20,838 (6 proposed districts)**
Prosper	31,507	7	At-Large	N/A

*ACS 2022 5-Year Estimate

Comparable City Comparison

City	Population*	# of Members	Districts/At-Large	Estimated population per district
Denton	142,262	7	4 districts/3 at-large	35,566 (4 districts)
Abilene	126,356	7	At-Large	N/A
Killeen	159,643	8	4 districts/4 at-large	39,910 (4 districts)
McAllen	144,579	7	6 districts/Mayor at-large	24,096 (6 districts)
Mesquite	147,317	7	6 districts/Mayor at-large	24,553 (6 districts)
Midland	134,444	7	4 districts/3 at-large	33,611 (4 districts)
Round Rock	130,406	7	At-Large	N/A
Waco	144,816	6	5 districts/Mayor at-large	28,963 (5 districts)

*ACS 2022 5-Year Estimate



Committee Discussion



Charge F:

Evaluate Need for Additional
Council Seats

Current Provision

Section 2.01. Number, selection and term

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- (b) Four (4) members of the council whose positions shall be places one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4), shall be residents of and elected by the qualified voters of single-member geographical districts of the city, known as districts one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4), as such districts may from time to time be determined by the city council in accordance with Section 2.01(d), and created and described by ordinance. Two (2) members of the council and the mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire city, commonly known as at large. One (1) at large member, place five (5), shall be a resident of district one (1) or two (2), and one (1) at large member, place six (6), shall be a resident of district three (3) or four (4).
- (d) The council shall from time to time create and describe by ordinance election districts known as districts one (1), two (2), three (3) and four (4). Such districts shall be created so that each will contain, as nearly as possible, a population equivalent to the others, according to the latest available census data.

Current Provision Explained

- The city council consists of seven members, six councilpersons and a mayor.
- Four members of the council shall be from single-member geographical districts, known as districts one, two, three, and four.
- Two members of the council and the mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire city, commonly known as at-large.
 - One at-large member, place five, should be a resident of district one or two.
 - One at large member, place six, should be a resident of district three or four.
- The four single-member districts will be subject to redistricting with equivalent populations and according to the latest available census data.

Considerations

Best Practice Recommendations:

- National Civic League Model Charter:
 - Councils should range from 5-9 members.
 - Smaller city councils are more effective instruments for the development of programs and conduct of municipal business than large local legislative bodies.

Legal Considerations:

- Adding Council districts will require outside legal counsel review for Voting Rights Act implications.

Surrounding City Comparison

City	Population*	# of Members	Estimated population per district
Denton	142,262	7	35,566 (4 districts)
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Arlington	393,469	9	78,694 (5 districts)
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*ACS 2022 5-Year Estimate

City of Denton Growth Projections

- Denton is currently growing at an estimated rate of 3.63% annually (NTCOG)
- New developments and master planned communities will increase the population over the next 10-20 years.

City of Denton Population Growth			
2020	2021	2022	2023
141,107	147,199	150,435	158,349

Source: U.S. Census Vintage 2023



Committee Discussion

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 22

Development Services Center

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Meeting Topics:

- Increase 2-year Council term to 3 or 4 years
- Modify the Council stipend

