



CHANGING THE DATE OF GENERAL
ELECTIONS TO NOVEMBER ELECTION
DATE IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS

RS-25-193

December 19, 2025

Background

- Recent changes to the Texas Election Code would allow the City Council to pass a resolution to change the date of its general elections from the May uniform election date to a November uniform election date in odd-numbered years only, no later than December 31, 2025.
- City Charter allows for general elections to be held on either uniform election date – May or November.
- City Charter provides for staggered terms with the election of the Mayor and at-large Councilmembers in even-numbered years and the election of district Councilmembers in odd-numbered years.

Background

- 2011: Upon notice that Bell County would no longer provide election equipment, City Council passed a resolution to maintain the May uniform election date.
- 2013: City Charter was amended to allow elections to be held on any uniform election date.
- 2016: City Council did not take action to change the uniform election date to November prior to statutory deadline of December 31, 2016.
- 2024: City Council removed changing election dates from its legislative priorities.
- 2025: SB 1494 extends deadline to change to a November uniform election date to December 31, 2025, but limits the change to odd-numbered years only.

Alternatives

1. Change the date of odd-numbered year general elections from May to a November uniform election date. Odd-numbered year elections to elect District Councilmembers would occur in November, but even-numbered year elections to elect Mayor and at-large Councilmembers would still occur in May.
2. Change the date of all general elections to a November uniform election date in odd-numbered years to elect Mayor and all Councilmembers at the same time, eliminating staggered terms and elections in even-numbered years. Current Mayor and at-large Councilmembers would holdover until November 2027.
3. Change the date of all general elections to a November uniform election date in odd-numbered years beginning in 2029 to elect Mayor and all Councilmembers at the same time.
4. Do not change the date of general elections.

Resolution in Conflict with Charter

- Election Code 42.0052(c) states that a home-rule city may provide for the election of all members of the governing body at the same election through adoption of a resolution and that such resolution supersedes a city charter provision that requires a different general election date or that requires the terms of members of the governing body to be staggered.
- The statute also provides that the governing body changing an election date under this section shall adjust the terms of office to conform to the new election date.

Recommendation

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- Staff recommends that City Council provide direction on how to proceed prior to December 31, 2025.