



**CHARTER
RECOMMENDATIONS:
ELECTION DATES**

DS-26-045

June 2, 2026

Background

- The Charter currently provides that the Mayor and at-large Councilmembers are elected in May during odd-numbered years and all district councilmembers are elected in May during even-numbered years.
- On December 19, 2025, the City Council approved a resolution (25-191R) moving elections for the Mayor and all Councilmembers to the November uniform election date in odd-numbered years beginning in November 2027.

Committee Recommendation

- The Charter Review Committee recommended that the Charter be amended to reflect the resolution and move all regular elections to the November uniform election date in odd-numbered years.
- Based on the recommendation, amendments would need to be made to Sections 22 & 93 of the Charter.

Section 22, Paragraph 2

~~At an election held on a uniform election date in even-numbered years, a mayor and three councilmembers shall be elected by a plurality vote of the city at large for a term of two (2) years. The mayor or any councilmember elected prior to the adoption of this amendment shall serve until November 2027. Beginning in November 2027, and thereafter, A~~at an election held on ~~at~~ the November uniform election date in odd-numbered years, there shall be elected a mayor and seven councilmembers, each to serve a term of two (2) years. A mayor and three councilmembers shall be elected by a plurality vote of the city at large, and four councilmembers, one ~~councilmember~~ from each of the single member districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, by a plurality vote of the registered voters residing within each district, ~~to serve a term of two (2) years.~~ All elections are to be held in a manner provided in Article IX of this charter and in accordance with state law.

Section 93

The regular election for the choice of members of the council as provided in Section 22 of Article III of this Charter, shall be held ~~each every odd-numbered~~ year on ~~an the~~ authorized November uniform Election Date provided for in the Texas Election Code. The council may, by resolution, order a special election on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Election Code that allows sufficient time to comply with other requirements of law as may be authorized by law. The Council shall set the date of all other elections in accordance with applicable provisions of the Election Code, Local Government Code, Constitution and other general laws of the State of Texas.

Direction

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- Staff requests direction as to proposed amendments to the City Charter regarding election dates.



CHARTER RECOMMENDATIONS: CITY COUNCIL TERM LIMITS



Background

- Currently, the Mayor and all Councilmembers serve two-year terms and may serve no more than three consecutive terms (in whole or in part) in one office.
- There is no maximum term limit or a waiting period between serving in different offices.

Comparators

- **Houston** – Limited to two four-year terms.
- **Waco** – Councilmembers serve two-year terms with no term limits; no at-large councilmembers (except mayor).
- **Austin** – Limited to two consecutive four-year terms; a person who has held office for more than two years of an unexpired term is restricted from running again for more than one additional consecutive term.
- **Temple** – Serve three-year terms; limited to three consecutive terms in any one office; no limits on total terms.

Comparators

- **Wichita Falls** – Limited to two consecutive three-year terms; limited to three consecutive terms in total; partial terms do not count towards term limit; requires an 18-month waiting period to become eligible to hold an office again; elected officials who resign to run for another office have the initial term counted in full.
- **Abilene** – Councilmembers/Mayor all serve three-year terms with no term limits; no district positions, all are at-large (different “places”).

Committee Recommendation

- ❑ The Charter Review Committee recommended an amendment to limit members of council to six consecutive terms, in any combination of office.
- ❑ Following six consecutive terms, a person must wait one full term before they are deemed eligible to run for any office.
- ❑ Based on the recommendation, amendments would need to be made to Section 22 of the Charter.

Section 22, Paragraph 3

The members of the City Council shall serve not more than three (3) consecutive terms in any one officesuccession, or six (6) consecutive terms in any combination of elective office, in whole or in part, whether appointed (to fill an unexpired portion of a term) or elected, and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified and they shall be ineligible to succeed themselves or another member in the same office for an additional successive term. If a member becomes ineligible to hold office due to completing six (6) consecutive terms, the member may only become eligible following a one (1) full-term absence from office. For the purposes of this provision there shall be only two offices: the office of the mayor and the office of the councilmember.;

Direction

13

- Staff requests direction as to proposed amendments to the City Charter regarding term limits for members of the City Council.



CHARTER RECOMMENDATIONS: RESIGN TO RUN



Background

- If the Mayor or a Councilmember files to run for a different office with the City, then the Mayor/Councilmember must resign and vacate their office immediately upon filing for the different office.
- The resign to run provision does not apply when a member files to run for an elected position outside the City of Killeen.
 - ▣ Upon accepting a new position outside of the City, a member could be required to resign if the new position is incompatible with his/her current position.

Committee Recommendation

- The Charter Review Committee recommended that the City Charter's resign to run provision be amended to apply only upon filing to run for elected positions not with the City.
- The resign to run provision would no longer apply in the event a councilmember seeks to run for mayor, or vice versa.
- Based on the recommendation, amendments would need to be made to Section 22 of the Charter.

Comparators

- ❑ **Pearsall** - If the Mayor shall become a candidate for nomination or election to any public office, other than Mayor, he or she shall vacate immediately his or her place...
- ❑ **Sugar Land** - If a member of the city council becomes a candidate for election to any public office, other than that of city council, such candidacy shall constitute an automatic resignation of the city office then held and the vacancy thereby created will be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Charter and State law.

Comparators

- **Amarillo** - If the *Mayor* or any Councilmember announce as a candidate to be elected to another public office with more than twelve months and thirty days remaining in their current term of office, it shall be considered that the officeholder immediately resigned from their current office and their office shall be immediately vacant by operation of law creating a vacancy in the elected office of the city held.

Section 22, Paragraph 4

~~except if any member of the City Council holding office desires to run for a different office than that which the member holds, at the next election, the member must resign and vacate their present office immediately upon filing for a different office and his resignation shall be effective on the date of such resignation.~~ If a member of the City Council becomes a candidate for election to any public office, other than that of councilmember or mayor, such candidacy shall constitute an automatic resignation of the city office then held and the vacancy thereby created will be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Charter and State law. For the purposes of this ~~provision~~ Section there shall be only two offices: the office of the mayor and the office of the councilmember.

Direction

20

- Staff requests direction as to proposed amendments to the City Charter regarding the resign to run provision.



CHARTER RECOMMENDATIONS: FILLING COUNCIL VACANCIES



Background

- The Charter currently provides that if a single vacancy on Council occurs:
 - More than 90 days before a regular municipal election, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment.
 - Within 90 days before a regular municipal election, the vacancy may be filled by appointment.
- If two or more vacancies occur on Council at any time, then the vacancies shall be filled following a special election on the next uniform election date.

Committee Recommendation

- The Charter Review Committee recommended that any vacancy should be filled by appointment no matter when the vacancy occurred or how many vacancies existed.
- A special election would be called if no quorum existed.
- Based on the recommendation, amendments would need to be made to Section 26 of the Charter.

Section 26

A vacancy in the council of the City of Killeen, except the office of Mayor, shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the council, by the selecting of a person possessing all the qualifications prescribed by Section 23 of this Article, and who shall be a bona fide resident of the district in which the vacancy occurs; unless the vacancy in office is that of a councilmember at large, in which case the person selected to fill the vacancy shall be a bona fide resident of the City of Killeen without regard to the district in which he resides. However, if the ~~remaining members of the council are unable to appoint members due to a lack of quorum, vacancy occurs within 90 days before a regular municipal election, the vacancy is not required to be filled. Where more than one vacancy shall develop at any one time,~~ then a special election shall be called on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Election Code that allows sufficient time to comply with the other requirements of law, in order to fill those vacancies. and that occurs on or after the 30th day after the date the ordinance calling the election is adopted, and any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as herein provided for general election. If the Mayor protem succeeds to the office of Mayor under the provisions of Section 25 of this Article, then his office of that councilmember shall be considered vacant within the meaning of this Section.

Comparators

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- Looked at the charters of 26 comparable cities to see how they fill vacancies.
- 10 cities require that all vacancies be filled by election.
 - “A vacancy in the City Council shall be filled by a special election which shall be called in accordance with state law.”
 - 8 of those require an election to fill a vacancy due to term lengths.

Comparators

- 5 cities require that all vacancies be filled by appointment.
 - ▣ “Vacancies in the Council...arising from any cause shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members for the unexpired term or until the next City general election.”
- 11 cities allow appointment unless certain conditions exist.
 - ▣ “Any vacancy occurring with an unexpired term 12 months or less shall be filled by appointment. Any vacancy with more than 12 months must be filled by election.”

Direction

27

- Staff requests direction as to proposed amendments to the City Charter regarding the filling of vacancies on the city council.