

Propositions for November 2019 City Election

The City Council appointed a Charter Commission to examine the current City Charter and make recommendations for Everman voters in the upcoming November City election.

The Charter Commission consisted of:

Vikki Hutchison-Chair
Judy Graham-Vice Chair
Pink Barnett
Patsy Malone
James Stephenson

The Commission recommends the following changes to the Charter and the following Propositions will be placed on the Ballot for the November 2019 City Election for Voter consideration:

Proposition No. 1. City Council Terms.

The Everman Mayor and City Council Members should be active while representing the City. His/her involvement with various Boards, Commissions, and Community groups is essential to the success of Everman. Ongoing projects can take more than two years to come to fruition. Therefore, the Charter Commission recommends that the current two-year Mayoral and City Council Member term be extended to a four-year term to adequately provide time for the Mayor and City Council Members to oversee and finish important projects.

Shall Section 4.01, Subsection B of Article IV of the Everman City Charter be amended to increase the current two-year term for the Mayor and City Council Members to a four-year term (effective May 2020)?

Proposition No. 2. Staggered Terms for City Council Members.

Currently, all City Council seats are up for election at the same time (concurrent terms). If a future election resulted in new Council Members for every seat, experience and knowledge of the City's operations would be non-existent until the new members could be trained. Training could take several months. The Charter Commission believes staggered terms would be more beneficial so, at any given time, at least half of the Council would have the experience and/or knowledge needed to continue proper and efficient governance of the City. To maintain continuity, the Charter Commission recommended that the City Council be elected to staggered terms.

Shall Section 4.01, Subsection B of Article IV of the Everman City Charter be amended to provide for staggered terms for the council members? (Effective May 2020; Even numbered Council seats and the Mayor will be elected on every other even year beginning 2024; odd numbered seats will be elected on every other odd numbered year beginning 2023)?

Proposition No. 3. Compensation of the Mayor and City Council.

Citizens elected to the position of Mayor or Council Member must be prepared to represent the City of Everman in a variety of ways and spend a number of hours each month doing so. Time demands for the Mayor and Council Members are rapidly increasing. Participation in City Council Workshops, City Council meetings, the Mayor's Council of Tarrant County, the TML Conference and Regional meetings, and attendance at various City sponsored events, to name a few, are examples in which City leaders can represent their community and constituents to ensure that the City of Everman is afforded every opportunity to provide programs, grants, and other important functions for the citizens they serve. Due to these demands, the Charter Commission recommended pay increases for the Mayor and Council Members.

In addition, if there is no attendance any given month, no payment will be provided.

Shall Section 3.02 of Article III of the Everman City Charter be amended to increase the compensation of council members from the sum of Six Hundred dollars

(\$600) per year to Twelve Hundred dollars (\$1200) per year and the compensation

of the mayor from One Thousand Two Hundred (\$1,200) per year to Six Thousand dollars (\$6000) per year effective October 1, 2020?

Proposition No. 4. Supervision of City Secretary.

Currently, the City Secretary is supervised by the City Council. The Council generally meets twice a month and that is primarily the only direct contact they have with the City Secretary. The City Council conducts the annual performance evaluation and recommends potential pay increases for the City Secretary. The Charter Commission believes the City Secretary should be supervised daily. The job responsibilities will remain the same, however, the Charter Commission believes the City Manager should be directly responsible for the supervision of the City Secretary (including hiring and termination recommendations, if necessary) like the other Directors for the City. With the City Manager's supervision, the City Secretary would receive fair and accurate performance evaluations, periodic recommendations for pay increases, and other important aspects of the job. In addition, if termination is ever recommended, the City Council would be responsible for any appeal that may take place. The Charter Commission believes this recommendation would make the City more fluent, improve communication, and make the City Secretary position more effective and efficient.

Shall Section 5.06 and 5.07 of Article V of the Everman City Charter be amended to allow the City Manager to hire and/or terminate the City Secretary and supervise the daily activities of the City Secretary, like all other City Directors, for efficiency and effectiveness and to provide accurate and fair Performance and Pay Raise evaluations that would benefit the City and the City Secretary?

Proposition No. 5. Qualifications for City Council Candidacy.

The Charter Commission believes that anyone running for or actively sitting as the Mayor or City Council Member should be a qualified voter, be a resident of the City for at least one year prior to election (and while serving as Mayor or Council Member if elected), should have no felony convictions, and should not be financially delinquent to the City (i.e., property taxes {if property owned by candidate or spouse}, City Utility payments, any other City fees). The Charter Commission believes that the sitting Mayor and Council Members or candidates for Mayor or Council Member should have these qualifications to govern the citizens they serve fairly, efficiently, and effectively.

If any member of the City Council fails to maintain the aforementioned or foregoing qualifications, or fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the City Council (this includes the work session regularly scheduled in week one of each month and the regular Council meeting held in week two of each month), during each elected year (unless the City Council deems the absences as “excused”), or shall be convicted of a felony or offense involving moral turpitude, the City Council shall declare a vacancy in the office of that member of the City Council at its next regular meeting and shall fill the vacancy as set forth in this Charter.

Shall Sections 3.06 of Article III and 4.05 of Article IV of the Everman City Charter be amended to add financial responsibility to the City and not be financially delinquent to City Council election qualifications and for sitting City Council members? City Code violations will be discussed/debated by the City Council and time for full compliance (no more than 90 days) to be determined for sitting Council Members; those seeking election or re-election must be in full compliance.

Proposition No. 6. Additional Qualifications for City Council Candidacy.

The Charter Commission believes that anyone running for or actively sitting as the Mayor or City Council Member should be (and make every effort to be) City Code compliant. The Charter Commission believes that the sitting Mayor and Council Members or candidates for Mayor or Council Member should have these qualifications to govern the citizens they serve fairly, efficiently, and effectively.

If any member of the City Council fails to maintain the aforementioned or foregoing qualifications the City Council shall declare a vacancy in the office of that member of the City Council at its next regular meeting and shall fill the vacancy as set forth in this Charter.

Shall Sections 3.06 of Article III and 4.05 of Article IV of the Everman City Charter be amended to add City Code compliance to City Council election qualifications and for sitting City Council members? City Code violations will be discussed/debated by the City Council and time for full compliance (no more than 90 days, unless the Council Member elects to take his/her case to court proceedings, in which case, the court(s) would determine compliance and/or non-compliance issues and judge accordingly) to be determined for sitting Council Members; those seeking election or re-election must be in full compliance.

Proposition No. 7. Qualifications for City Board & Commission Members.

The Charter Commission believes that anyone being considered for or serving on a City Board or Commission should be a qualified voter, be a resident of the City for at least one year prior to appointment, should have no felony convictions, should not be financially delinquent to the City (i.e., property taxes {if property owned by candidate or spouse}, City Utility payments, any other City fees) and should be (and make every effort to be) City Code compliant. The Charter Commission believes that a sitting Board or Commission Member or candidates for Board or Commission Member should have these qualifications to govern the citizens they serve fairly, efficiently, and effectively. The only exception would be the Economic Development Board and the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Board which allows County resident appointments in addition to City resident appointments; all other proposed qualification would apply.

Shall Section 8.01 of Article VIII of the Everman City Charter be amended to add City Code compliance and not be financially delinquent to the City to qualifications for persons being considered for City Boards and/or Commissions and, if appointed, the term will last no more than two (2) years from the date of appointment? (Qualified persons can still be removed or re-appointed at the City Council's discretion at any time). Code violations to be debated by the City Council and time for full compliance, if any, would be determined for sitting Board/Commission Members; those seeking appointment or re-appointment must be in full compliance.

Proposition No. 8. Declaration of Election Results: Majority VS Plurality.

Currently, City elections are won by “majority system”. The winning candidate must receive 50.1% (more than half) of the vote in order to take office. If none of the candidates obtain 50.1% of the vote or better, a run-off election must occur. Elections are expensive and the Charter Commission believes that the City of Everman should adopt a “plurality system”. This system simply means the candidate with the highest number of votes takes office. This would eliminate the need for any costly run-off elections.

In the event of a tie, the election would be decided by lot (coin toss).

Shall Section 4.06 of Article IV of the Everman City Charter be amended to change City Election results from majority to plurality thereby eliminating the potential for costly run-off elections?