

Charter Amendment – Council Districts – Method of Election

1. Section 600 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara is amended to be entitled and to read as follows

Sec. 600 City elected officers.

No person shall be eligible to hold any elective office in the City including Mayor, City Council, Chief of Police Department and City Clerk, unless he or she is a resident and a qualified registered elector of the City.

The elective officers of the City shall consist of a City Council composed of seven members, the Chief of the Police Department and the City Clerk. The members of the City Council, (which includes the office of the Mayor), the Chief of the Police Department and the City Clerk shall be elected from the City ~~at large~~ at the times and in the manner provided in this Charter. Except as otherwise herein provided, a person elected to an office for other than an unexpired term, shall serve a term of four years, and shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The term shall commence on the date the City Council certifies the canvass of the election returns submitted to it by the County Registrar of Voters.

~~The person receiving the most votes cast for a particular City office shall be declared duly elected. Ties shall be broken as provided from time to time by ordinance.~~

The office of Mayor shall be separately voted upon and is a separate office. The person elected at any election to the office designated “Mayor” shall be deemed elected, both as a Mayor and as a member of the Council. Although the Mayor is a Council member, his or her election does not change the number of Council members from seven.

No person shall be a candidate for both Mayor and a City Council seat at the same election. However, an incumbent member of the City Council may run for the elective office of Mayor, and the Mayor may run for the separate office of Mayor or other City Council office. However, at no time shall a member of the Council, including the Mayor, hold more than one City elective office. Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, no incumbent member of the City Council while serving in such office with an unexpired term of more than six months shall be a candidate for any numbered Council seat other than the one which he or she holds.

2. Section 700.1 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara is amended to be entitled and to read as follows:

Sec. 700.1 Elections – City Council

Members of the City Council, other than the Mayor, shall be elected from two districts to be known as Districts 1 and 2 with elections to be conducted as follows:

- a. Each district shall be represented by three Council Members.
- b. In the election to be held in November 2018 the voters of District 1 shall nominate and elect two Council Members for four year terms each.
- c. In the election to be held in November 2020, the voters of District 1 shall nominate and elect one Council Member for a two year term; and the voters of District 2 shall nominate and elect three (3) Council Members for four year terms each.
- d. In the election to be held in November 2022, the voters of District 1 shall nominate and elect three (3) Council Members for four year terms each.
- e. In each election held in or after November 2024, City Council members shall be elected for a four year term.
- f. The method by which Districts are to be drawn and redrawn for City Council shall be enacted by ordinance of the City Council.

3. Section 700.2 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara is amended to be entitled and to read as follows:

Section 700.2 Method of Elections – City Council

- a. Members of the City Council other than the Mayor shall be elected by ranked choice voting, also known as single transferable vote. The City Council shall, by ordinance, establish the ballot format and the rules for casting and counting the vote.
- b. Ranked choice voting shall be used for the general municipal election in November 2020 and all subsequent elections. If the Registrar of Voters will not be ready to implement ranked-choice balloting in November 2020, then the City shall use the method of election provided for in the Elections Code until the Registrar of Voters is able to implement ranked-choice voting.