

City of Santa Clara

City Council Meeting

**Item #18.C Charter Review Committee
Recommendations: Proposed Charter Amendment on
Methods of Election & Future Work Plan Items**

December 5, 2017



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Background

- April 11, 2017, Council appointed Charter Review Committee to evaluate the City's election method of Council Members in time for June 2018 primary election
- July 18, 2017, Committee presented recommendation; Council directed Interim City Attorney to draft ballot language for Committee's review and approval
- October – November 2017, Committee reviewed ballot language and other suggested charter amendments for Council's review



Proposed Charter Amendment

- Elect City Council Members to two three-member districts (e.g. District 1 and District 2)
- Elect the three members at the same time alternating district elections between gubernatorial and presidential election years
- Utilize the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) form of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) when County Registrar of Voters can support it in 2020
- Transition to include:
 - 2018, elect two members to four-year terms in District 1;
 - 2020, elect one member to a two-year term in District 1, and three members to four-year terms in District 2.

Implementation of Proposed Charter Amendment

- Approve ballot measure for proposed charter amendment to be June 2018 primary ballot
- City Attorney's Office will begin working with consultant regarding drawing of districts
 - Hold two public hearings within 30-day period to receive public input on composition of districts
 - Ad-hoc Council Subcommittee recommended for purpose of hearings
 - Draw draft map and make available in two more public hearings within a 45-day period for further public input



Implementation of Proposed Charter Amendment (cont.)

- Spring 2018, establish districts via City Ordinance in time for November 2018 election
- Summer 2018, voter education and outreach in collaboration with Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (ROV) will be necessary
- 2019 – 2020, establish ballot format to support single transferrable vote via City Ordinance by November 2020 (or when ROV can support single transferable vote voting method)

Fiscal Impact to City

- **Fiscal impact unknown at this time; budget appropriations to be brought forward to Council as appropriate for the following:**
 - Inclusion of ballot questions for June 2018 election
 - Consultant to assist with establishing districts
 - Consultant to assist with comprehensive voter outreach and education



Other Recommendations Made by Committee

- Committee reviewed 14 other suggested charter amendments and recommended the following:
 - Retain Chief of Police and City Clerk as elected positions
 - Change voting methods of Mayor, City Clerk, and Chief of Police to match the recommended voting method (STV) of Council Members beginning in 2020
 - Refer to Ethics Committee review of methods for reporting potential Charter violations by City staff and/or members of the public
 - Forward remaining suggested charter amendments to Council with staff's input

Review of Other Suggested Charter Amendments

- In review of suggested charter amendments, the following Charter sections need administrative updates due to outdated terms of value and procedure:
 - 1) Charter Section 1310 Contracts on public work
 - 2) Charter Section 714 Power to lease, sell or convey City property
 - 3) Charter Section 1101 Classified Service

Recommendation

- **Per the Charter Review Committee’s recommendations, that Council:**
 - 1) Approve moving forward with proposed charter amendment
 - 2) Direct City Manager and Interim City Attorney to initiate process to draw districts with public outreach
 - 3) Provide further direction regarding administrative charter amendments and potential work plan items for future Charter Review Committee consideration
- **Note and file Charter Review Committee meeting minutes of October 5, October 23, November 6, 2017.**

