




2023 Charter Review Committee

Item 4, RTC 23-979
Discussion and Action on Proposed Community Engagement Strategies and Other Resources for the 2023 Charter Review Committee

August 10, 2023

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City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Background

- Committee to present recommendations to Council in November
- Provide Santa Clarans opportunity to express their views and for Committee to recommend changes (if any) based on that input
- City has a variety of tools that can be used to engage the community
- Goal is to provide an open forum for respectful and inclusive dialog, the presentation of best practices and thoughtful deliberation of varying perspectives prior to ultimately making recommendations

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Proposed Outreach Strategies

- Set meeting schedule, readily available to the public
- Hybrid meetings in facilities that are accessible to the community and held at convenient times
- Dedicated webpage with relevant Committee-related resources (agendas, minutes, reports, etc.)
- Two public hearings with sufficient time in between to allow for outreach with flexibility to hold one additional hearing if needed.
 - Two-minute public presentations

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Proposed Outreach (cont)

- An overview of historical, best practice and alternative model information including presentations from Santa Clara's Police Chief and City Clerk as well as outside experts
- Use of City communication channels (including survey tools) and social media
- An email for the Committee to receive communications from the public
 - Staff will respond to inquiries and forward to the Committee for their awareness and action if needed

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Proposed Outreach (cont)

- Research inquiries from the Committee and post on Committee webpage so that the information is available to the public
- Deadline for submitting written public comment into the record for an item on an agenda is noon, day of meeting

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Sample Committee Research Questions

- How would a change from elected to appoint positions change current operations?
 - What steps would be needed to make a change? Timeline?
- How do Santa Clara positions compare with surrounding agencies in the County?
- Is the trend statewide to move towards elected or towards appointed positions? What is driving the change?
- If the positions remain elected, what would be the process to amend qualifications/eligibility requirements?

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Questions/Additional Research Required?