



CITY COUNCIL VOTING PROCESS FOR ELECTING MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

City Council
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Current Process - Appointment of Mayor and Vice Mayor (Charter)

Charter Sections 4 and 15 provide:

- Council elects one member to serve a two-year term as Mayor following the swearing in of new Council members.
- Council annually elect one member to serve as Vice Mayor for a one-year term.

Current Process - Appointment of Mayor and Vice Mayor (Section XII)

Section XII of the City Council Manual of Procedures and Protocols process for election of Mayor/Vice Mayor:

1. Call for nominations.
2. Each nomination requires a second and acceptance.
3. If only 1 nominee accepts, that nominee is elected by unanimous consent.
4. If 2 or more nominees accept, election is by process of elimination:
 - Each Council Member votes by ballot for 1 fewer than total number of nominees.
 - Nominees receiving 0-1 votes are eliminated.
 - Subsequent votes are taken by roll call with each Council Member voting for 1 fewer nominee than in previous round. (only nominees not eliminated may be voted upon.)
5. Once a single nominee receives a majority, the nominee is elected.

There is currently no process specified about how Council moves forward when a tie occurs that cannot otherwise be resolved by existing rules (e.g. 3/2/2, 3/1/1/1/1, 3/3 votes)

Recommendation

Based on feedback at the recent study session, the City Attorney recommends that Council amend the process as follows:

1. Limit to Three Nominees By Adopting the Following Nomination Rules:

- Council Members may nominate or second only once, but may not do both.
- No Council Member may nominate themselves, but may second a nomination for themselves.

Recommendation

2. **Modify Elimination Process.** If there are 2 or 3 nominees, use the following modified elimination process:
 - **Vote by Ballot:** Each Councilmember votes for *only 1* nominee. If a nominee receives a majority vote, that person is elected.
 - **Elimination:** If no nominee receives a majority, eliminate nominees with zero votes (or if none has zero votes, eliminate those with only one vote), but only if elimination does not result in only one remaining nominee.
 - **Revote:** If any nominee is eliminated, use process above to revote.

Recommendation

3. **Add New Rules to Get Unstuck.** Use the following rules when the elimination rules do not provide a path forward:
 - **Run-Off Vote:** To deal with low-vote ties (e.g. 3/1/1 or 2/1/1), take a run-off vote to eliminate one of the tied low-vote getters, then revote.
 - **Random Selection:** For complete ties (e.g. 3/3 or 2/2/2), or any other stuck situation, following discussion, Council must either revote, or decide (by motion) to use random selection process.

Questions?