

City Charter Review 2022

City Council Meeting
August 17, 2021

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Introduction

- At two recent study sessions, Council has considered timing, process and scope of the upcoming Charter review
- Council has provided direction on key issues
- Council will now consider taking formal action to establish a Charter Review Committee and to guide the process and scope of the 2022 Charter review

Background

- City Charter Section 12 provides for review of the City Charter every ten years
- Last Charter review began in 2011 and resulted in proposed revisions placed on the ballot in November 2012
- Council has directed that a new Charter review begin this fall

Background

- Charter review may consider revisions, additions or deletions of Charter provisions
- Any proposed changes to the Charter are subject to voter approval

Procedures for Charter Review

- To be led by Charter Review Committee appointed by the Council
- Committee to be comprised of 21 city residents
- Each Council member to appoint three Committee members
- Diversity of age, race, gender, interests and background

Procedures for Charter Review

- Chair to be appointed by Mayor with consent of full Council
- Committee subject to Brown Act
- Ad hoc committees may be appointed by Committee chair to research, discuss and draft proposals on specific issues

Procedures for Charter Review

- Charter Review Committee to begin its work in September
- Committee to research and draft recommended amendments to the City Charter
- In recent past, Committees have worked five to nine months to evaluate and develop proposals
- Extent of work depends on nature of proposals

Procedures for Charter Review

- Committee recommendations will be presented to City Council
- If approved by Council, proposed revisions to the Charter will be placed on the November 2022 ballot for voter consideration
- If approved by the voters, revisions will be reflected in the Charter

Topics for Consideration

- Possible topics for discussion:
 - Directly elected at-large Mayor
 - Ranked choice voting
 - Police auditor / Police citizen oversight commission
 - Council compensation

Topics for Consideration

- Possible topics for discussion (cont'd):
 - Climate change
 - Diversity, equity and inclusion
 - Taxation
 - Regulation of rental properties

Topics for Consideration

- Possible topics for discussion (cont'd):
 - Procurement policy
 - Board and Commission quorums
 - Removal of Mayor or Council member for misconduct

Topics for Consideration

- Possible topics for discussion (cont'd):
 - Council continues to seek additional input from the broader community
 - Council also seeks recommendations from those who work most closely with the current Charter, including City employees, unions and department heads

Questions on Topics for Discussion

- Council Compensation
 - Current provisions
 - 2002 Measure M

- Removal of Mayor or Council Members
 - Current provisions
 - Limits on Council power

Additional Notes

- Potential issues that can be addressed by ordinance or resolution
 - Community Advisory Board districts
 - Council vacancy – allowance for departing Council member to participate in vote on successor
- Recognition of likelihood of “omnibus” measure to address needed clarifications

Prioritization and Work Plan

- Charter Review Committee to determine priorities
- Committee to establish meeting schedule and develop work plan
- Periodic progress reports to Council

Next Steps

- Appointment of Committee members
- Mid-September – First Committee meeting
- Continued community outreach

Application for membership on Charter Review Committee

- Applications for Committee membership may be filed on-line or in the Office of the City Clerk:
 - <https://srcity.org/3621/City-Charter-Review-2022>
 - Office of the City Clerk
100 Santa Rosa Ave, Room 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

QUESTIONS?