



City of Santa Rosa

Legislation Details

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Title:	REPORT - PROPOSED CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS				

BACKGROUND: Section 12 of the City Charter requires a review of the Charter not less than every ten years, with the review to be conducted by a committee to be appointed by the City Council. The last Charter review began in 2011 and resulted in proposed revisions placed on the November 2012 ballot. Ten years have now passed and, last August, 2021, the Council directed the establishment of a new Charter Review Committee and the initiation of a new review.

The Charter Review Committee met every other week for more than six months (with adjustments for holidays) and issued its final report on May 24, 2022. The Committee recommended that three ballot measures be placed on the ballot for the voters' consideration in November 2022: (1) a ballot measure to amend Charter Section 4 to increase Council compensation; (2) a ballot measure to amend Charter Section 4 to reflect the City's district-based election of Council members; and (3) a ballot measure to update and modernize the language of the Charter.

The Committee also recommended that at least one additional measure, to expand voting rights in local elections to noncitizens, be further evaluated and researched for possible action in the future. Proposals for action on that recommendation will be brought to the Council at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Charter Review Committee that the Council, by motion, introduce three measures to be placed on the November 2022 ballot for the voter's consideration: (1) a ballot measure to amend Charter Section 4 to increase Council compensation, by tying Mayor and Council compensation to a percentage of the City's Area Median Income; (2) a ballot measure to amend Charter Section 4 to align with the City's district-based election of Council members; and (3) a ballot measure to update and modernize the language of the Charter, including provisions to remove ambiguities, to provide additional flexibility in City operations, and to ensure gender and citizenship neutrality.

Sponsors:

Indexes: Not a Project

Code sections: 15378 - Not a Project

Attachments: 1. Staff Report, 2. Ballot Measure No. 1 (Council Compensation), 3. Ballot Measure No. 2 (District Elections), 4. Ballot Measure No. 3 (Charter Update and Modernization), 5. Attachment 1 - CRC Final Report to Council, 6. Attachment 2 - Attachments to the CRC Final Report to Council, 7. Attachment 3 - Links to Documents Presented to the Charter Review Committee, 8. Attachment 4 - Berkeley Measure JJ (November 2020), 9. Attachment 5 - AMI Chart, 10. Attachment 5 – AMI Chart Revised (Uploaded 6-20-2022), 11. Attachment 6 - Charter of the City of Santa Rosa (rev. 2012), 12. Presentation

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/21/2022	1	City Council	received and filed	