



Sunnyvale

Discussion and Direction Regarding Potential Amendments to the City Charter

Sarah Johnson-Rios, Assistant City Manager
City Council
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City Council Colleagues Memorandum

- On Nov. 28, 2023, City Council requested this agenda item.
 - Memo. proposed a Charter Review Committee to review the Charter and propose amendments.
 - Memo. identified nine potential amendments:
 1. Fill Council vacancies at next Nov. General Election
 2. Require 24 Council meetings/year instead of 2/month
 3. Review Board/Commission size and citizenship requirement
 4. Examine Mayor's role, consider a full-time Mayor
- Continued on next slide*

City Council Colleagues Memorandum (continued)

Continued:

5. Evaluate Council salary and compensation
6. Update Charter with gender neutral language
7. Consider an alternate voting system
8. Evaluate role of district Councilmembers
9. Define rules for Redistricting Commissions

Recent Charter Review Committee Efforts

Year(s)	Scope of Review	Timeline (inception- election)	Num. of Mtgs.	Committee Selection Process	Election Date	Election Outcome
2020	1 item from Council - district elections*	18 months	5	Open applications	Mar 2020	1 measure passed
2017- 2018	1 item from Council – filling vacancies	12-18 months	8	Open applications	Nov 2018	1 measure passed
2010- 2011	2 items from Council – directly elected Mayor, Council compensation	12-18 months	8	Open applications	Nov 2011	1 of 2 measures passed
2006- 2007	10 items -7 from Council, some from Committee	18 months	12	Appointed by Council	Nov 2007	9 of 10 measures passed

Options for Structuring Charter Review

- Sunnyvale Charter may be amended by the majority of Sunnyvale Voters.
- Charter amendment may be formulated by:
 - ◆ A Charter Review Commission (Election Code 9255)
 - ◆ Council action
 - Charter Review Committee advisory to Council
 - Council Subcommittee
 - Council direction to staff
 - ◆ A petition from 15% of voters

Fiscal Impacts

- ~ \$118,000 for each ballot measure
 - ◆ Budget includes funds for up to 2 measures (note that Council may consider measures beyond Charter amendments)
- Potential outside counsel, depending on scope
- Potential public information costs
- Ranked-choice voting - ~\$87,000 annually + implementation

Alternatives for Timing, Process, and Scope of Charter Review

- Council-appointed Charter Review Committee with broad scope for a future election
- Council-appointed Charter Review Committee with limited scope for 2024 election
- Council-directed Charter amendments for 2024 (with or without Subcommittee)
- Staff evaluation of desired policy changes not requiring Charter amendments

Recommendation – Alternative 1, Alternative 2 or 3, & Alternative 5

1. Direct Staff to return with analysis of items from the Colleagues' Memo that may be able to be modified without a Charter Amendment.

2. Pursue Council-Directed Charter Amendments for 2024 by directing Staff to return with proposed ballot measure language for priority items identified by Council.

OR

3. Pursue Council-Directed Charter Amendments for 2024 by appointing a Council Subcommittee to work on designated items identified in the Colleagues' Memo and return with proposed ballot measure language for those items.

5. Direct Staff to return to Council in early 2025 with options for a more thorough charter review process similar to the one undertaken in 2007, allowing for more opportunity for public participation and adequate time to prepare several potential changes for voter consideration in November 2026.



Thank you

Questions?