
Sunnyvale Municipal Code

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE

Article VI The Council

Section 604. Vacancies.

Except as otherwise provided herein, in the event of a vacancy in the City Council, from whatever cause arising, within thirty days of the commencement of any vacancy the City Council shall officially declare the seat vacant and call a Special Municipal Election for the purpose of filling such vacancy. In the event of a vacancy in the City Council created by the death or other involuntary removal of a member, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution of the State of California, where the unexpired term of the deceased or removed member does not exceed one hundred eighty days, the City Council shall, within sixty days after such office shall have been declared vacant, fill such vacancy by appointment. Should the Council fail to fill the vacancy within the sixty-day period, it shall treat such vacancy in the same manner as one created by a cause other than death or involuntary removal.

Any Special Municipal Election called to fill an unexpired term shall be held within one hundred and twenty days from the date the Council declares the vacancy to exist except that no election shall be held on the day before, day of, or day after a state holiday. The Council shall promptly declare or take the required steps to declare the existence of the vacancy. Such special election shall be consolidated with a general municipal or statewide election if a municipal or statewide election is scheduled within one hundred and eighty days from the date that the vacancy is declared. As used herein, the next general municipal or statewide election means the next such election at which it is legally possible to place the matter on the ballot and elect a successor.

Any person elected or appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.

In addition to any other cause from which vacancies in the City Council may occur, the office of a member of the City Council shall become vacant and it shall be so declared by the Council where such member is absent from all regular meetings of the Council for a period of sixty days consecutively from and after that last regular Council meeting attended by such member, unless by permission of the Council expressed in its official minutes; or such member is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude; or he/she ceases to be an elector of the City of Sunnyvale or ceases to maintain his/her principal place of residence within the City limits during his/her term of office. (Amended effective December 31, 1975, December 21, 1976, December 23, 1982 and January 17, 1992: previously Section 703)