

ISSUE 7

Charter Amendment
City Elections

OFFICIAL
QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT
GENERAL ELECTION
FRANKLIN, DELAWARE AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES, OHIO
NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Proposed Charter Amendment

City of Columbus

Amendment No. 2 – City Elections

(Submitted by City Council based on recommendations of the 2014 Columbus Charter Review Commission)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

The Amendment proposed by Ordinance No. 1748-2014 would amend sections 41-46, repeal sections 47-51, 53-56, 200-206, 210-211, 215-223, and 234, and enact new sections 41.1-.6, 42.1-.16, 43.1-.4, 44.1-.6, 45.1-.5, and 46.1-.5 of the Columbus City Charter to, including, but not limited to:

- Restate that city elections be nonpartisan.
- Permit the city to regulate campaign finances and disclosure of contributions for political candidates and municipal ballot issues.
- Reorder and renumber sections related to elections; and apply state election law, unless otherwise provided by the charter or city ordinance.
- Use state law for the form of candidate and issue ballots.
- Regarding candidate petitions: use state law for nomination of candidates at a nonpartisan election; use state petition form and circulation requirements; and eliminate provisions that a petition signer pledges to vote for the candidate and that the candidate file an acceptance of the candidacy.
- Apply state law provisions for replacement of candidates in case of death, disqualification or withdrawal.
- Regarding petitions for initiative, referendum, recall and charter amendment: provide that the city clerk produce petition templates; require a pre-circulation certified copy and all petitions be filed with the city clerk; be printed in a uniform color; contain a title in 14 point font on each page, a notice to signers in 12 point font on each signature page, a full text with no ancillary information, and in the circulator's statement an identification of the employer; require the city attorney to determine if a petition addresses a single subject and is legally sufficient; specify the form of petitions; require

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disclosure to the city clerk anything of value provided to circulate, supervise, manage or organize a petition; petitioners must file an initiative or charter amendment petition within 1 year after filing a certified copy; if 2 or more conflicting proposals are adopted at the same election, the proposal receiving the highest vote shall prevail.

- Regarding the initiative and referendum: require signatures of at least 5% of the votes cast at the last regular election for mayor to initiate an ordinance or referendum; determine the sufficiency of a petition in a public meeting by ordinance of council within 14 days of the board's report on the number of valid signatures and the city attorney's report on the legal sufficiency of the petition; and if a petition is sufficient, require council to act within 30 days to either submit the proposal to electors, or pass the initiated ordinance or repeal the ordinance subject to referendum.
- Regarding proposed initiated ordinances, referendums and charter amendments: provide that council prescribe a brief summary for placement on the ballot; and council may prescribe arguments for and against the issue to be placed in each voting location.
- Regarding recall petitions: restate that all elective officeholders in the city of Columbus are subject to the recall; eliminate a provision that recall petitions be signed at city fire houses or the city clerk's office; change the signature requirement from 15% of registered voters to 15% of the total vote cast at the last regular election for mayor; allow up to three officers to be subject to recall at the same election; set the period for holding the election at 60-120 days after the petition is found sufficient; prohibit filing a recall petition within 90 days of a regular election for the office; and eliminate a requirement that an initial petition with 1,000 valid signatures be filed to begin a recall.
- Require that no city officer may consider the subject matter of a petition when determining the legal sufficiency thereof, unless required to assure compliance with applicable law.

Shall the proposed Amendment to the Columbus City Charter be adopted?

YES

NO