

Columbus City Charter Summary of Council Action



July 16, 2014

Overview

- On July 7, 2014, the Columbus Charter Review Commission submitted a report of recommendations to the mayor and council
- On July 9, 2014, Council held the first of two public hearings regarding the suggested amendments to the charter
- On July 14, 2014, three charter amendment ordinances received first reading



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Ordinances

Charter-Related Ordinances

- On July 14, 2014, three ordinances, each proposing a charter amendment question, received first reading before Council
 - 1747-2014
 - 1748-2014
 - 1749-2014
- These ordinances are currently slated for second reading on July 21, 2014

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 1, City Administration Ordinance 1747-2014

ISSUE	ORDINANCE	SECTIONS
Annual Report, electronic, permanent	City Administration	Section 231
Charter Review Commission, decennial	City Administration	New
Charter Technical Changes	City Administration	New
Civil Service Commission, 3 year rule	City Administration	Section 149
Equal Rights and Non-Discrimination	City Administration	New
Mayor's budget estimate, various	City Administration	Section 26
Recreation and Parks Commission, qualifications	City Administration	Section 128
Sinking Fund, repeal	City Administration	Sections 15, 26, 32, 61, 93, 120, 121, 123, 133-141
Utilities, various	City Administration	Sections 118-124, 194

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 2, City Elections Ordinance 1748-2014

ISSUE	ORDINANCE	SECTIONS
Elections, various	City Elections	Sections 41-56, 200-223, 234

Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3, City Officeholders Ordinance 1749-2014

ISSUE	ORDINANCE	SECTIONS
City Clerk, various	City Officeholders	Section 11, 14, 145
Council, various	City Officeholders	Sections 3-19, 33, 34
Elected Official Compensation	City Officeholders	Sections 7, 15, 59
Ethics and Prohibited Acts for Public Officials	City Officeholders	Sections 6, 227
Inability of Officeholders, Temporary and Permanent	City Officeholders	Sections 5, 64, 67, 78, 87
Open meetings	City Officeholders	New
Prohibited use of public funds	City Officeholders	Section 31
Public records	City Officeholders	New
Qualifications for City Elected Officials	City Officeholders	Sections 4, 5, 6, 58, 64, 66, 79



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Council Updates

Recreation and Parks

- **Commission recommendation:**
Section 128: ...All commissioners shall be bona fide residents of the city of Columbus or Franklin County, Ohio, or counties immediately contiguous thereto; provided that a majority of such commissioners shall be bona fide residents of the city of Columbus.
- **Council update:**
Section 128: ...All commissioners shall be bona fide residents of the city of Columbus ~~Franklin County, Ohio.~~

The Recall

- **Commission recommendation:**

Sec. 46-3 Placement of recall on the ballot.

The question of the removal of the elective officer shall be submitted to the electors of the city at the next regular municipal election if one shall occur not less than **fifty, nor more than ninety**, days after the city clerk determines the sufficiency of the same.

- **Council update:**

Sec. 46-3 Placement of recall on the ballot.

The question of the removal of the elective officer shall be submitted to the electors of the city at the next regular municipal election if one shall occur not less than **sixty, nor more than one-hundred-twenty**, days after the city clerk determines the sufficiency of the same.

Ballot Issue Withdrawal

- **Commission recommendation:**

Sec. 42-8. Withdrawal, effect of withdrawal or insufficiency.

...a petition shall be withdrawn from consideration by the electors if notice is submitted in like manner prior to the **fortieth day** before the date of the election thereon.

- **Council update:**

Sec. 42-8. Withdrawal, effect of withdrawal or insufficiency.

...a petition shall be withdrawn from consideration by the electors if notice is submitted in like manner prior to the **forty-fifth day** before the date of the election thereon.

Council Action on Petition

- **Commission recommendation:**

Sec. 42-11. Council action by ordinance.

Council action on a petition for any proposed ordinance, referendum, or charter amendment shall be by ordinance...

- **Council update:**

Sec. 42-11. Council action by ordinance.

Council action on a petition for any proposed ordinance, referendum, or charter amendment shall be by ordinance. **No city officer may consider the subject matter of a petition when determining the legal sufficiency thereof, except as required to assure compliance with applicable provisions of this charter, general laws of the state, or ordinance of council.**

Challenge to Petitions

- **Commission recommendation:**

Sec. 42-11. Council action by ordinance.

...The petition and signatures appended to a petition found to be sufficient as provided herein shall be presumed to be in all respects sufficient, unless not later than **forty days** before the election, it shall be otherwise proven.

- **Council update:**

- Sec. 42-12. Sufficiency of petition, signatures.

If a petition and signatures appended to a petition **are** found to be sufficient as provided herein, **such petition and signatures appended to such petition** shall be presumed to be in all respects sufficient unless not later than **forty-five days** before the election **thereon** it shall be otherwise proven.

Arguments re: Ballot Issues

- **Commission recommendation:**

Sec. 42-11. Council action by ordinance.
City council may further prescribe arguments, of no more than two-hundred words each, printed side by side in such order as council deems appropriate, in support of and in opposition to such proposed ordinance; and such arguments shall properly represent the substance, purpose and effect of the proposal. The ballot committee may prepare and present to city council suggested arguments for such proposal, which shall properly identify the substance, purpose and effect of the proposal.

- **Council update:**

Sec. 42-11. Council action by ordinance.
City council may further prescribe arguments, of no more than two-hundred words each, printed side by side in such order as council deems appropriate, **both** in support of and in opposition to such proposed ordinance; and such arguments shall properly represent the substance, purpose and effect of the proposal. The ballot committee may prepare and present to city council suggested arguments for such proposal, which shall properly identify the substance, purpose and effect of the proposal.

Citizens' Commission on Elected Official Compensation

- **Commission recommendation:**

Sec. 15-5. Council action to establish salaries.

Within thirty days after the report is submitted, council shall by ordinance either accept the commission recommendations or any portion thereof, or reject the same. If council rejects the recommendations, the salaries then in effect shall remain unchanged. In no event may council adopt an ordinance establishing salaries which exceed the recommendations of the commission.

- **Council update:**

Sec. 15-5. Council action to establish salaries.

After the report is submitted, council shall by ordinance either accept the commission recommendations or any portion thereof, or reject the same. If council rejects the recommendations, the salaries then in effect shall remain unchanged. In no event may council adopt an ordinance establishing salaries which exceed the recommendations of the commission.



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Next Steps

Timeline

- If Council approves one or more of the charter-related ordinances on July 21, 2014, the following will take place:
 - Clerk certifies the question(s) to the boards of elections prior to the August 6, 2014 deadline
 - Question(s) placed on the ballot for a special election concurrent with the November 4, 2014 general election
 - Columbus electors vote and, if a majority support any question(s), the charter will be amended

Questions?



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