

On May 7, 2016, a special election will be held to allow voters to determine whether to amend the Fort Worth City Charter.

Eleven charter amendment proposals will be included on the May ballot. An 11-member Charter Review Task Force was appointed by the City Council in July 2015. The Task Force held regular meetings and multiple public hearings to solicit community feedback for recommended changes to the Charter. The Task Force presented their recommendations to the City Council in December 2015.

The Fort Worth City Charter defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of city government. The city's first home rule charter was adopted in 1924, establishing the city council/city manager form of government Fort Worth uses today. The charter has been amended 13 times since adoption, most recently in 2006.

## Important Dates:

Voter registration for the May 7 election ends on April 7.

Early voting begins April 25 and ends May 3.

The special election is held May 7 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

For more information on voting locations and registration visit:

Tarrant County – [www.tarrantcounty.com/elections](http://www.tarrantcounty.com/elections)

Denton County – [www.votedenton.com](http://www.votedenton.com)

Parker County – [www.parkercountytx.com](http://www.parkercountytx.com)

For more information on the charter election:

Visit [www.FortWorthTexas.gov/charter](http://www.FortWorthTexas.gov/charter)

Call (817) 392-6150

Email [charterquestions@FortWorthTexas.gov](mailto:charterquestions@FortWorthTexas.gov)

# May 7 Special Election

## What you need to know



There are 11 propositions on the ballot. Voters must vote for each proposition separately.

Here are the propositions you will see on the May 7 ballot.

### CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Place an 'X' in the square beside the statement indicating the way you wish to vote.

#### PROPOSITION 1

- For** Shall Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter III and Section 2 of Chapter IV and other sections referencing the term of office for the City Council in the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the current two-(2) year terms for the City Council to three-(3) year terms starting with the 2017 general election?
- Against**

**Impact:** Increases the number of years from two years to three years that a council member serves after elected

#### PROPOSITION 2

- For** Shall Sections 1, 2 and 5 of Chapter III and Section 3 of Chapter IV and other sections referencing the number of councilmembers in the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the number of City councilmembers from nine (9) to eleven (11) members, one of which is the mayor, beginning with the first election following the 2020 Census and adoption of the new redistricting map by the City Council and to maintain the quorum at two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the City Council?
- Against**

**Impact:** Increases the number of councilmembers from 9 members to 11 beginning with the first election following the 2020 census

#### PROPOSITION 3

- For** Shall Section 3 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the compensation of councilmembers from the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) per year to forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) per year and the compensation of the mayor from twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$29,000.00) per year to sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) per year starting October 1, 2016?
- Against**

**Impact:** Increases the salaries of the Mayor and councilmembers in October of 2016

#### PROPOSITION 4

- For** If Proposition 1 is approved by the voters, shall Section 4 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to allow a majority of the City Council to appoint a qualified person from the district whose place has been vacated to serve the unexpired term if the vacancy occurs twelve (12) months or less prior to the end of an unexpired term?
- Against**

**Impact:** If Proposition 1 passes, it would allow a council seat that is vacant to be filled by a majority of the City Council, provided the seat will be vacant 12 months or less prior to the next election

#### PROPOSITION 5

- For** Shall the first paragraph of Section 5 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to provide that the newly-elected City councilmembers may be sworn in at the same meeting at which the election results are canvassed provided the meeting is held within the city limits of Fort Worth?
- Against**

**Impact:** Will allow the mayor and councilmembers to be sworn in at the same time the votes are canvassed

#### PROPOSITION 6

- For** Shall Sections 1 and 3 of Chapter IV of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that a person seeking election to the City Council must have resided in the district for which he or she seeks election for 180 days prior to the first allowed filing date for the election?
- Against**

**Impact:** Clarifies that a candidate must live in the district 180 days before the first day to file

#### PROPOSITION 7

- For** Shall Chapter VII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to add a new section to provide that municipal judges will be appointed and may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the City Council?
- Against**

**Impact:** Allows removal of municipal judges for cause

#### PROPOSITION 8

- For** Shall Section 2 of Chapter X of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to provide for budget hearings, adoption and publication of the budget, appropriation ordinance, and tax levy ordinance in accordance with state law?
- Against**

**Impact:** Public hearings and publications will be handled in compliance with state law, reducing costs

#### PROPOSITION 9

- For** Shall Section 6 of Chapter XX of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that when competing ordinances are presented to the voters at an election the ordinance that receives the highest number of favorable votes prevails?
- Against**

**Impact:** Clarifies that the ordinance with the highest number of affirmative votes prevails

#### PROPOSITION 10

- For** Shall Chapter XXVII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to add Section 21 to provide for electronic and other Web-based publications and notices as a substitute for newspaper publications where allowed by State law?
- Against**

**Impact:** Allows the City to use electronic notices if allowed by state law

#### PROPOSITION 11

- For** Shall Section 8 of Chapter III and Section 7 of Chapter XXVII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to eliminate the provisions in each section that are in conflict with State and Federal law?
- Against**

**Impact:** Removes Charter provisions inconsistent with state and federal law