



**Oklahoma City voters will decide on Nov. 3 whether to adopt nine amendments to the City Charter.**

**The Charter is like a City's constitution**, and it can only be changed by voters.

These nine amendments are primarily intended to modernize wording, address inconsistencies and resolve discrepancies with state law. There are no tax issues on the ballot.

**TO VOTE:**

FILL IN THE BOX NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE(S) LIKE THIS:



Correct

Incorrect

## PROPOSITIONS

### PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall Article II, Section 2, and Article X, Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? Article II, Section 8 and Article X, Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Oklahoma City Charter all relate to Mayor and City Council elections. The amendment to Article II, Section 8 deletes obsolete wording, simplifies structure, and amends when elected officers take office from one week to four weeks after the runoff election date. The amendments to Article X, Sections 1, 2 and 3 collectively: change the names primary and general election to general election and runoff election; set the regular general election date for Mayor as the second Tuesday in February in certain even years; set the regular general elections for Council as the second Tuesday in February of odd years when terms expire; add language for electing Councilmembers if new wards are created; amend the filing (declaration of candidacy) dates for Mayor or Council to comply with State law and the filing dates set by the Oklahoma County Election Board; adopts State law for giving notice of the elections; and authorizes City Clerk to make names of elections consistent throughout the Charter.

**Proposition 1** lengthens the time between an election and when the winner takes office, and clearly labels the general and primary elections. It also clears up issues with state law.

### PROPOSITION NO. 2

Shall Article II, Section 6 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? Article II, Section 6 of the Oklahoma City Charter relates to the qualifications for the offices of Mayor and City Councilmember (City Councilor). The amendment to Section 6 reformats the section for ease of reading and sets forth the following qualifications for these offices, as applicable, all of which must be met prior to filing a declaration of candidacy. To file as a candidate for such offices, a person: A. Must be a citizen of the United States and the State of Oklahoma; B. Must be at least 21 years of age; C. Must have been a resident of Oklahoma City or an area annexed into such City for at least one year; D. For the office of Mayor, must have been a registered voter at an address within the City for a least one year immediately preceding the filing of a declaration of candidacy; and E. For the office of City Councilor representing a ward, must have been a registered voter at an address within the ward for a least one year immediately preceding the filing of a declaration of candidacy.

**Proposition 2** requires candidates to live in OKC and their Ward for at least a year as a registered voter before filing to run for office. It also makes the requirements to run easier to read.

### PROPOSITION NO. 3

Shall Article II, Section 10 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? Article II, Section 10 of the Oklahoma City Charter relates to City Councilmembers (City Councilors) serving as the Vice-Mayor when the Mayor is temporarily absent or disabled and provides for the filling of a vacancy in the office of Mayor. The only amendment to Section 10 is to provide that if the vacancy in such office occurs within the final year of the Mayor's term of office, it shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining City Councilors within 30 days, instead of within 15 days, after the occurrence of the vacancy.

**Proposition 3** makes the requirements to appoint a temporary Mayor or call a special election the same as those for other City Council seats.

### PROPOSITION NO. 4

Shall Article II, Section 11 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? Article II, Section 11 of the Oklahoma City Charter relates to when regular meetings of the City Council may be held. The only amendment is to delete the existing language that regular meetings will be held on Tuesday of each week and to instead provide only, pursuant to other existing language, that such meetings shall be held at such times as the Council may by ordinance designate.

**Proposition 4** amends an outdated requirement for Council meetings to match the practice of setting meeting schedules by ordinance.

### PROPOSITION NO. 5

Shall Article IV, Section 4 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? The existing language of Article IV, Section 4, of the Oklahoma City Charter, now designated 4(a), relates to the exclusive control of City management employees by the City Manager of the City and states that the Mayor or Council shall deal with the administrative service of the City solely through the City Manager. Subsection 4(a) is amended to state that the Mayor or a City Councilor may be charged with a misdemeanor upon violating the above-stated limitations, instead of stating that such officer shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. A new Subsection 4(b) is added to state that the Mayor or any City Councilor may provide information to the City Manager regarding the positive or negative job performance of any officer or employee under the City Manager; however, such information must be based on direct personal knowledge or on a signed written statement provided by a resident. Providing information to the City Manager pursuant to Subsection 4(b) will never be considered to constitute a violation of Subsection 4(a).

**Proposition 5** allows the Mayor or a Councilmember to provide information to the City Manager about a City employee's job performance.

### PROPOSITION NO. 6

Shall Article IV, Section 6 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? Article IV, Section 6 of the Oklahoma City Charter relates to the two divisions of City government, which are the Division of Public Affairs under the Mayor and City Council and the Division of Public Management under the control of the City Manager. The amendments divide the text into Subsections 4(a) and 4(b). Subsection 4(a) specifies that the Division of Public Affairs shall include: (1) the City Manager; (2) the Municipal Counselor; (3) the City Auditor; (4) the Municipal Judges; (5) all City boards, commissions, and committees created by the Mayor or City Council, with appointments of Council-created bodies to be made by the Mayor with consent and approval of the Council; and (6) other personnel placed in the Division of Public Affairs by an ordinance passed by at least two-thirds of the City Council. Subsection 4(b) specifies that the Division of Public Management shall comprise all City departments, functions, agencies, commissions, and boards not specifically placed under the Division of Public Affairs by the Charter or by ordinance adopted pursuant to the Charter.

**Proposition 6** clarifies who is in the City's Division of Public Affairs, which is under the control of the City Council.

### PROPOSITION NO. 7

Shall Article IX of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended to adopt a new Section 11 thereof? Article IX, Section 11 of the Oklahoma City Charter would be a new section in the Charter relating to changing the terms Councilman and Councilmen in the Charter to instead consistently refer to such officers as Councilmember, Councilmembers, Councilor, or Councilors, as grammatically appropriate.

**Proposition 7** changes the term "Councilman" to "Councilmember" or "Councilor" where the Charter refers to Council representatives.

### PROPOSITION NO. 8

Shall Article I, Section 3 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? This proposal would amend the section of the Charter granting powers to the City government for ease of reading. It would also add the word welfare to the list of reasons for enacting and enforcing ordinances, to provide that ordinances may be enacted to protect health, safety, welfare, life or property.

**Proposition 8** makes it easier to read the section of the Charter that grants powers to the City government to "protect health, safety, welfare, life or property."

### PROPOSITION NO. 9

Shall Article IV, Section 12 of the Charter of The City of Oklahoma City be amended? Article IV, Section 12 of the Oklahoma City Charter prohibits City officers and employees from directly or indirectly accepting or receiving any salary, commission, compensation, free or discounted service, or other thing of value of any kind from certain specified privately-owned businesses within the City on terms more favorable than is granted to the public generally. This prohibition applies only if such a business is operating within the City pursuant to a franchise or contract with the City. The specified privately-owned businesses that the prohibition applies to are the following: any interurban or street railway; any airline; any bus line; any natural gas or electricity service or business; and any telephone service business. A violation of this prohibition is grounds for removal from City office or employment. However, the section does not prevent the granting of a City franchise or other City contract conditioned upon free service to the City and to its officers and employees while they are engaged in the performance of their duties.

**Proposition 9** re-words a section heading and more clearly prevents improper transactions related to certain businesses and franchise agreements.

**Get more details and the full text of the proposed changes at [okc.gov/Nov3](http://okc.gov/Nov3).**

## Background

Mayor David Holt appointed a Charter Update Committee to consider a wide range of potential Charter amendments. The committee met from February to June 2020, and formally proposed nine amendments. The proposed amendments were introduced during the City Council

meeting on Aug. 4, and the final hearing was Aug. 18. The election will be the same day as the Nov. 3 nationwide general election, but on a separate ballot available to all Oklahoma City voters at their usual polling place.