

# 2022 Charter Election Overview

## Ordinance No. 25328-02-2022

- Adopted by City Council on February 8, 2022
- Calls a charter election on Saturday, May 7, 2022
- Thirteen separate propositions lettered F through Q
  - Mayor and Council pay
  - 12 technical amendments

## Proposition F – Mayor and Council Pay

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 3 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to provide that the mayor's annual pay shall be half of the average annual base-rate salary for all City department heads and that the other city council members' annual pay shall be half of the average annual base-rate salary for all City assistant department heads starting October 1, 2022?

## Proposition F – Mayor and Council Pay

- **Current pay**
  - Mayor: \$29,000/year
  - Other Councilmembers: \$25,000/year
- **Proposed amendment – Index pay to City employee salaries**
  - Mayor: One half of the average annual base salary for Department Heads
  - Other Councilmembers: One half of the average annual base salary for Assistant Department Heads

## Proposition F – Mayor and Council Pay

- **If amendment is approved:**
  - Mayor and Council pay would be set each year as part of the budget process based on the averages of actual Director and AD base salaries for the coming budget year
  - Mayor and Council pay would go up and down as the Director and AD salaries change
  - Based on the salaries at the time of HR's recent analysis:
    - Mayor: \$99,653.00
    - Other Councilmembers: \$76,727
    - Total Impact for FY23 (9 Council members): \$484,469.00
    - Total Impact for FY24 (11 Council members): \$587,923.00

## Propositions G – R: Technical Amendments

- Prop G: Metes and bounds for Districts
- Prop H: Post termination hearing
- Prop I: Time to review petitions
- Prop J: Tax assessment and collection
- Prop K: City Health Dept
- Prop L: Newspaper notice – sale of prop
- Prop M: Paying for sidewalks/curbs
- Prop N: Timing of assessment roll
- Prop O: Public service corp reports
- Prop P: Official advertising contract
- Prop Q: Annexation Elections
- Prop R: Independent Auditors

## Proposition G – Metes and Bounds for Districts

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 3 of Chapter IV of the Fort Worth City Charter be revised to add language explicitly stating that metes and bounds descriptions are not necessary when the city council district boundaries are revised due to population changes based on recent census data?

**If amendment is approved:** Charter provision would state that district boundaries “need not be described by reference to metes and bounds” to eliminate someone thinking that is a requirement.

## Proposition H – Post Termination Hearing

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Sections 1 and 3 of Chapter V, Section 4 of Chapter VI, and Section 3 of Chapter XXVIII of the Fort Worth City Charter be revised to delete references to certain appointees and employees having the option to request a City Council public hearing regarding their removal?

**If amendment is approved:** The charter would be revised to remove references to a City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor, or department head who has been fired having the option to request a Council hearing.



## Proposition I – Time to Review Petitions

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 1 of Chapter XIX and Section 3 of Chapter XX of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the city secretary's time for reviewing voter-submitted petitions from ten (10) days to twenty-five (25) days?

**If amendment is approved:** The City Charter would give the City Secretary's Office up to 25 days to review petitions for completeness and sufficient voter signatures and might reduce cost of engaging temporary staffing to meet current 10-day deadline.

## Proposition J – Tax Assessment and Collection

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 1 of Chapter IX of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to remove the assessment and collection of taxes as a duty of the department of finance to reflect that the current practice of assessing and collecting all taxes, including special assessments, is performed by the county?

**If amendment is approved:** The reference to the Finance Department having the duty to assess and collect taxes and assessments would be deleted.

## Proposition K – City Health Dept

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Chapter XV of the Fort Worth City Charter be deleted in its entirety since the functions of a health department are performed by Tarrant County instead of the city?

**If amendment is approved:** The provision saying that the City will have a health department would be deleted.

## Proposition L – Newspaper Notice – Sale of Property

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 5 of Chapter XXI of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to reduce the required newspaper publications for the sale of certain property from once-a-week for four weeks to one time with a requirement that notice also be placed and remain on the city’s webpage for the four weeks preceding the sale?

**If amendment is approved:** The Charter would be revised to allow the City to do a single newspaper publication combined with online posting for four weeks instead of publishing in the newspaper four times. Applies when selling property worth more than \$125,000.

## Proposition M – Paying for Sidewalks and Curbs

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 4 of Chapter XXII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that the city is not required to assess owners of abutting property for the cost of construction of sidewalks and curbs and that the city may directly pay such costs itself?

**If amendment is approved:** The charter would reflect current practice of City generally not assessing sidewalk/curb costs to abutting property owners, but City would retain that option.

## Proposition N – Timing of assessment roll

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 1 of Chapter XXIV of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to provide that the tax assessor-collector shall provide a list of assessments of real and personal property to the City Council in accordance with deadlines established under state law?

**If amendment is approved:** The charter would no longer refer to a specific date for submitting this document and instead just refer to the deadline under state law so that as state law changes, there is no conflict.

## Proposition O – Public service corp reports

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 6 of Chapter XXVI of the Fort Worth City Charter, which requires public service corporations to file an annual report, be deleted in its entirety?

**If amendment is approved:** The provision requiring public service corporations to file an annual report with the City would be deleted, reflecting that many types of corporations are subject to statewide authority.

## Proposition P – Official advertising contract

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 17 of Chapter XXVII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to allow the official advertising contract to have a term longer than one year?

**If amendment is approved:** City would be able to do multi-year contracts for required newspaper advertising and reduce staff-time and monetary costs associated with having to go back out for bid every single year.



## Proposition Q – Annexation Elections

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 3 of Chapter I of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to delete outdated language and to reflect that an annexation election will be called and conducted in accordance with state law and may be conducted directly by the city or by county election officials contracted by the city with voters to mark ballot to indicate their selection?

**If amendment is approved:** Outdated references specifying poll hours and indicating Mayor sets polling places would be deleted in favor of a general reference to the elections being conducted in accordance with state law.

## Proposition R – Independent Auditors

- **Ballot Language:**

Shall Section 11 of Chapter X of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that the independent auditor's duties consist of auditing records and expressing an opinion on the annual comprehensive financial report and single audit and to remove requirement for physically printed copies?

**If amendment is approved:** The charter provision would reflect that the independent audit firm performs the types of duties associated with annual comprehensive financial reports and audits in accordance with state law and standard practices.

# Key Election Dates

- **March – April 2022** – Public information meetings
- **April 7, 2022** – Last day to register to vote
- **April 25, 2022** – First day of early voting
- **May 3, 2022** – Last day of early voting
- **May 7, 2022** – Election Day