

FINAL REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVIEW TASK FORCE



Presented to the City Council

By Dionne Bagsby, Task Force Chair

December 1, 2015

Charter Review Task Force

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Scope of City Charter Review

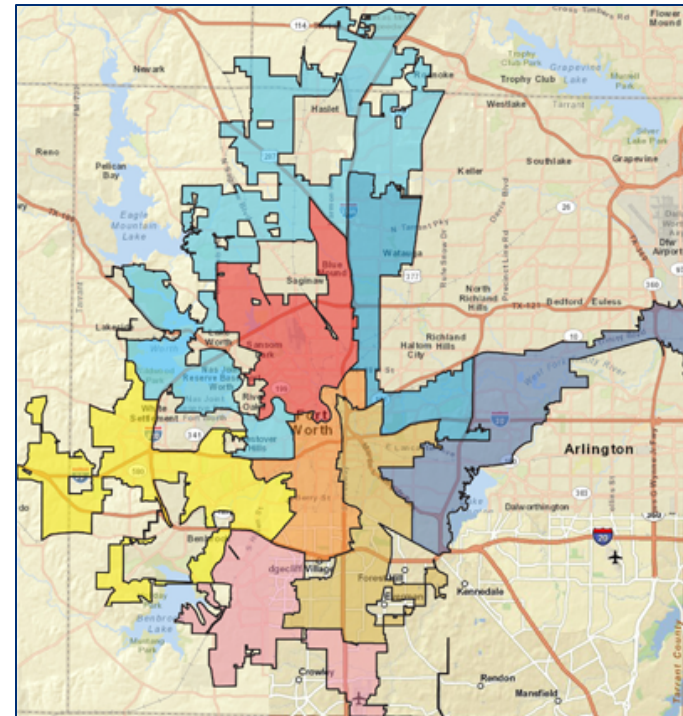
Issue	Current Charter Provisions
Number of Council members	8+1
Terms of office	Two-year terms
Staggered terms	Concurrent terms
Compensation	\$25,000 for Council members \$29,000 for Mayor
Technical amendments	Inconsistencies with state law, archaic language, unused provisions

Schedule

July 28, 2015	City Council adopts resolution appointing Charter Review Task Force.
August 19, September 3, 17, 30	Task Force holds four meetings to study issues and reach preliminary findings.
October 13	Task Force briefs City Council on preliminary findings .
October 26 - November 16	Task Force conducts six public hearings at locations throughout the city.
November 18	Task Force meets to formulate recommendations .
December 1	Task Force presents recommendations to City Council.
January 12 and 26	City Council holds public hearings on Task Force recommendations during two regular Council meetings.
February 2 (NLT 2/19/16)	City Council adopts ordinance calling election on proposed Charter amendments.
February through April	City conducts outreach to educate voters about proposed Charter amendments.
May 7	City conducts Charter election .

Number of Council Members

Increase the number of Council members from 8+1 to **10+1**.



Implementation Schedule

- The resolution appointing the Charter Review Task Force calls for considering the “number of council members, **with any increase to become effective upon redistricting after the 2020 census for a 2023 election.**”
- Six citizens, however, commented in favor of increasing the number of council members and implementing that increase as soon as possible, i.e. in time for a **2017 election.**
- The Task Force makes **no recommendation** about the schedule for implementing the recommended increase in the number of council members.



Terms of Office

Increase the terms of office from two years to **three years**.



Staggered Terms

Continue to elect all
council members
concurrently.



Compensation

Effective October 1, 2016,
increase the annual salary of
each Council member from
\$25,000 to **\$45,000**.

Increase the Mayor's annual
salary from \$29,000 to
\$60,000 .



Technical Amendments

Approve **all 23** technical amendments as recommended by City staff.



Technical Amendments



Propositions No. 1 through 4. *(Reserved for **policy issues** identified by City Council)*

Proposition No. 5. Vacancies in the City Council

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 an unexpired term?

Proposition No. 6. Swearing in of City Council Members

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 council members can be sworn in at the same meeting at which the election results are canvassed?

Proposition No. 7. Employees Allowed to Run for Office

Shall Section 8 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to delete the provision that appointed officers and employees of the city forfeit their position with the city if they become a candidate for nomination or election to any public office in order to comply with state law that allows employees to remain employed while running for office?

Proposition No. 8. Deletion of Metes and Bounds Requirement

Shall Section 3, “Councilpersons to be elected from districts” of Chapter IV, “Method of nominating and electing member of the city council” of the Fort Worth City Charter be revised to clarify that a metes and bounds description is not necessary when the city council district boundaries are revised due to population changes based on recent census data?

Proposition No. 9. Residence Requirements for Persons Seeking Election to the City Council

Shall Section 1 of Chapter IV of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that a person seeking election to the city council must have resides in the district for which he or she seeks election for 180 days prior to the first allowed filing date for the election?

Proposition No. 10. Deletion of Right of Public Hearing by Department Directors

Shall Section 3 of Chapter V of the Fort Worth City Charter be revised to delete the right of department directors to request a public hearing by the City Council before his/her removal by the city manager is final?

Technical Amendments

(Continued)



Proposition No. 11. Deletion of Right of Public Hearing by Certain Appointed Officials

Shall Section 1 of Chapter V, Section 4, of Chapter VI and Section 3 of Chapter XXVII of the Fort Worth City Charter be revised to delete the right of the city manager, the city attorney and the internal auditor to request a public hearing by the City Council if removed after serving six (6) months?

Proposition No. 12. Appointment and Removal of Municipal Judges

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 removed for cause by a majority vote of the City Council?

Proposition No. 13. Assessment and Collection of Taxes

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

Proposition No. 14. Adoption of Budget in Accordance with State Law

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?

Proposition No. 15. Independent Audit

Shall Section 11 of Chapter X of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to state the duties of the outside auditor as it relates to the city's budget?

Proposition No. 16. Deletion of Public Health Department

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

Technical Amendments

(Continued)



Proposition No. 17. Recall of Councilperson, Procedure; Election of Successors.

Shall Section 1 of Chapter XIX of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the time from ten (10) days to twenty-five (25) days for the city secretary to review a petition submitted by the voters to recall any councilmember?

Proposition No. 18. The Initiative

Shall Section 3 of Chapter XX of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the time from ten (10) days to twenty-five (25) days for the city secretary to review a petition submitted by the voters to propose ordinances?

Proposition No. 19. The Initiative

Shall Section 5 of Chapter XXI of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to reduce the number of newspaper publications for the sale of property valued at more than \$125,000 from once-a-week for four weeks to one time with a requirement that notice also be placed on the city's webpage for four consecutive weeks?

Proposition No. 20. Clarify who can pay for the cost of construction of sidewalks

Shall Section 4 of Chapter XXII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to state that the city may pay, in whole or in part, for the cost of construction of sidewalks and curbs?

Proposition No. 21. Correct title to reflect that improvement contracts are signed by the City Manager

Shall the title of Section 6 of Chapter XXII of the Fort Worth City Charter be corrected to specify that the city manager signs improvement contracts?

Proposition No. 22. Reporting by the Tax Assessor

Shall Section 1 of Chapter XXIV of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to allow the tax assessor-collector to provide a list of assessments of real and personal property owned in the City to the City Council by a deadline as established under state law?

Technical Amendments

(Continued)



Proposition No. 23. Annual Reporting by Public Service Corporations

Shall Section 6 of Chapter XXVI of the Fort Worth City Charter which requires all public service corporations operating within the city to file an annual report of the receipts of their business operation be deleted in its entirety?

Proposition No. 24. Contracts for Official Advertising

Shall Section 17 of Chapter XXVII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to allow the city's contract with a newspaper for official advertising of the city to have a term of more than one year?

Proposition No. 25. Annexation, Method and Procedure

Shall Section 3 of Chapter 1 of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that the city may contract with the appropriate county to hold an election for annexation and change the words "strike out" to "marking" the ballot to conform to current practice?

Proposition No. 26. Compliance with State Law

Shall the Fort Worth City Charter be amended where preempted by state law?

Proposition No. 27. Alternative Means to Publication Requirements

Shall the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to provide for electronic and other web based publications and notices instead of newspaper publications where allowed by state law?

Summary of Recommendations

Issue	Recommendation
Number of council members	10+1
Terms of office	Three-year terms
Staggered terms	Concurrent terms
Compensation	\$45,000 for Council members \$60,000 for Mayor
Technical amendments	Approve all 23

Next Steps

January 12 and 26	City Council holds public hearings on Task Force recommendations during two regular Council meetings.
February 2 (NLT 2/19/16)	City Council adopts ordinance calling election on proposed Charter amendments.

