

CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND THE ELECTION PROCESS

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2021




Charter Amendments

- The Charter amendment process is created by Article 14 of the Charter.
- Charter Amendments are proposed in four ways:
 - By resolution of the Council adopted after two readings on separate days and passed by a vote of six or more members of the Council.
 - By petition presented to the Council, signed by not less than 10% of the voters registered in the last general election, setting forth the proposed amendments. The County Clerk must determine that the number of apparently genuine signatures on the petition are sufficient within 15 days. If so, the Council, in 45 days, must hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments and determine whether to forward the amendments to the voters by resolution.
 - By petition presented to the County Clerk, signed by not less than 20% of the voters registered in the last general election, setting forth the proposed amendments. The County Clerk must determine that the number of apparently genuine signatures on the petition are sufficient within 15 days. If they are sufficient, the amendments will be submitted to the voters at the next general election.
 - By the Charter Commission.

Charter Commission Amendments

- The Commission's proposed amendments or newly-drafted Charter must be submitted to the County Clerk within 16 months after the Commission has been appointed and after earlier review by the Council, if required by state law.
- The Clerk will submit the amendments to the voters of the County at any general or special election as may be deemed by the commission. Any special election must be held not less than 45 days and no more than 75 days after the County Clerk receives the amendments or the new charter.
- The Commission must also publish not less than 45 days before any election, at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the county, a brief digest of the amendments or new charter and notice that copies of the amendments or new charter are available at the Office of the County Clerk.
 - The County Clerk must also publish a digest of amendments proposed in other ways by this same deadline.

Timeline for Elections

- 2022 General Election: November 8, 2022
 - Deadline to publish Digest of Amendments: September 24, 2022
 - Deadline for the Clerk to submit questions to the State (HRS Section 11-119): August 25, 2022
 - Deadline for Commission to submit final amendments/ new Charter to the Clerk: June 20, 2022
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Questions?
