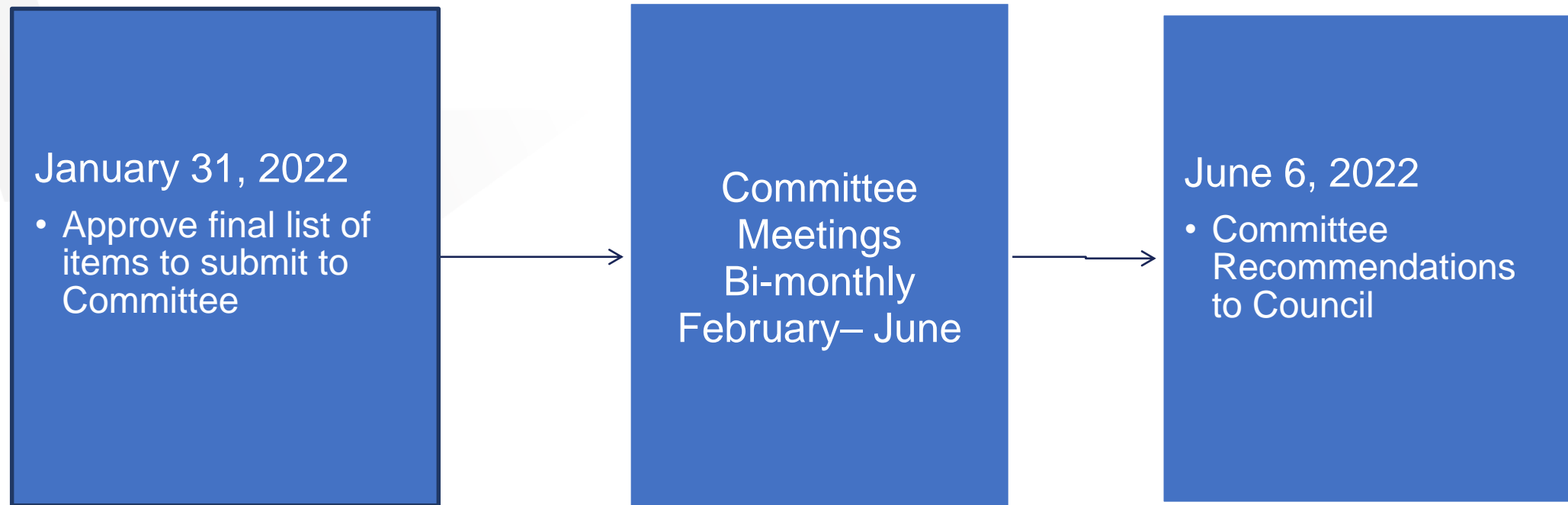




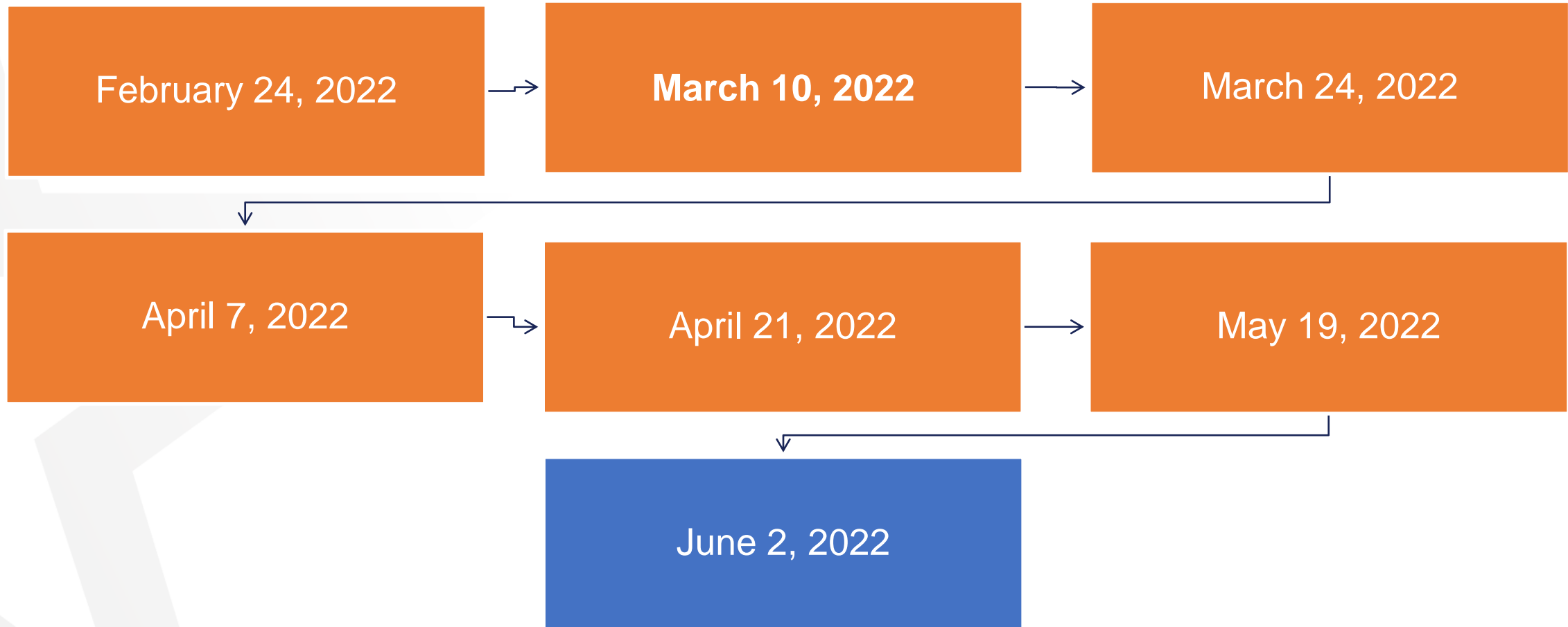
# Proposed Charter Amendments

City Council Update  
May 23, 2022

# Overview | Amendment Process



# Committee Meetings



# Community Meetings



## ✓ Wednesday, April 27, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Westside Regional Command Center  
4801 Osborne Dr.

## ✓ Monday, May 9, 2022

4 p.m.

Esperanza Acosta Moreno Library  
12480 Pebble Hills Blvd.

## ✓ Monday, May 2, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Northeast Regional Command Center  
9600 Dyer St.

## ✓ Thursday, May 12, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Regional Command Center  
9011 Escobar Dr.

## ✓ Thursday, May 5, 2022

4 p.m.

Memorial Senior Center  
1800 Byron St.



# Proposed Article II Amendments

**ARTICLE II SECTION 2.1 A – CITY ELECTIONS:** to evaluate the date of Municipal Elections.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Leave the election in November.

**ARTICLE II SECTION 2.1B – OFFICERS ELECTED:** to amend the 10-year cap by stating that the cap is not impacted when a Council member is filling an unexpired term-members may serve two full terms.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Allow Councilmembers to serve two full four-year terms, regardless of whether it results in more than a total of ten years.

# Proposed Article II Amendments



**ARTICLE II SECTION 2.4 A – NUMBER OF DISTRICTS:** to replace the language as follows: At such time when the results of a decennial United States census show the population of the City to be “~~one million~~ nine hundred thousand or more, the Council may take appropriate action to increase the number of District Representatives from eight to ~~ten~~ nine.”

**ARTICLE II SECTION 2.4B DISTRICTING COMMISSION:** to look at an independent districting committee process.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Make no recommendation; consider an independent districting committee and population by future Ad Hoc Charter Committee.

# Proposed Article II Amendments

**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.1 – CREATION: COMPOSITION; POWERS AND DUTIES:** to allow each Representative the discretion and full authority to employ 2 full-time employees.

**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.1 – CREATION; COMPOSITION; POWERS AND DUTIES:** Each Representative shall have the discretion and sole authority to appoint and remove a legislative aide Chief of Staff.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Deny the proposed amendments.  
Current language to allow one legislative aid to remain.

# Proposed Article III Amendments



**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.2 – CITY COUNCIL SALARIES:** to prevent a decrease in income, as it is tied to El Paso County’s median household income according to HUD; include Council Members in across-the-board increases for City employees.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Deny the proposed amendment. Remain tied to median household income according to HUD.

**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.5 A – CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:** to allow Council to adjust for emergencies or City holidays and allow less than a majority to call special meetings.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:**

Regular meetings to be held no less than once every other week at such times as may be prescribed by resolution. Council may reschedule meetings by resolution to allow for City holidays but must have no less than two regular meeting per month.

The Mayor may cancel a meeting if necessary due to a Federal, State or Local declared emergency.





# Proposed Article III Amendments

**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.9 – ORDINANCES IN GENERAL:** to have copies of all ordinances available electronically.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Approved proposed amendments.

**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.10 B – EMERGENCY ORDINANCES:** to align to State Law that requires 1-hour notice for the introduction of Emergency Ordinances.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Approved the proposed amendment to align with the one-hour State requirement for calling an emergency meeting to discuss a matter of urgent public necessity.

# Proposed Article III Amendments



## **ARTICLE III SECTION 3.18 – LEASE; FRANCHISE; AND CONVEYANCE:**

to make it more transparent, identify which real estate transactions are by resolution, such as easement under \$50,000, certain leases, and review any other transactions that are allowed.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Right to control use of streets, alleys, parks and public places requires ordinance. Franchise, conveyance or lease for 40 years or less can be approved by Resolution.

**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.11A REFERENDUM:** to allow for a referendum regarding ordinances imposing a fee for maintenance of City rights of way and allows for a referendum using best practices.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Make NO recommendation. Additional information requested

# Proposed Article III Amendments

**ARTICLE III SECTION 3.11 INITIATIVE:** review the initiative petition process for benchmarking purposes.

## **ACTION BY COMMITTEE:**

- Keep the requirement of 5% of voters who participated in the last general City election;
- Remove the requirement for a second petition if the Ordinance is not enacted or enacted in an amended form by Council;
- Add the requirement that the initiative is placed on the ballot at the next scheduled general City election if an election is needed.

# Proposed Article IV Amendments



**ARTICLE IV SECTION 4.1 B POWERS OF THE MAYOR:** to clarify the role of intergovernmental relationships, and review “break tie votes” to allow the Mayor to vote on all matters before the City Council.

## **ACTION BY COMMITTEE:**

- Clarified and solidified that the Office of the Mayor is responsible for intergovernmental affairs.
- Remove the Mayor’s tie-breaking and veto capacity and make the Mayor a voting member of the Council.
- Remove Mayor’s intragovernmental relationships.

# Proposed Article VI Amendments

**ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.1-4 – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:** to clarify language for appointment to the commission and align to best practices. Require retired from positions other than managerial or professional experience.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** ~~At least two Commissioners must hold or have retired from positions other than managerial or professional (insert definition of managerial/professional means).~~ No more than three Commissioners may be former city employees, and any such Commissioners are not eligible for appointment until two years following separation from the City. Any Commissioner may be either actively employed or retired.

**ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.1-12 – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:** to clarify the process for hearing officers to serve on behalf of the Commission and align to best practices.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Recommend making the Hearing Officers independent contractors.

**ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.2 – DIVISION OF THE CITY SERVICE:** to clarify definitions and positions considered unclassified and align to best practices.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Recommend that Commission Recorder remain unchanged.

# Proposed Article VI Amendments



**ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.5-2 – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:** to discuss the Rule of Five and align to best practices.

**ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.7-1 and 6.8-1 – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:** to streamline processes and be competitive in recruitment and promotion.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Delete the test qualification and the Rule of Five to align with the best practices.

**ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.13-11 – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:** to eliminate the Police/Fire Department Pension Cap in order to align to State Statute.

**ACTION BY COMMITTEE:** Eliminate the Police/Fire Department Pension Cap in order to align to State statute.

# Benchmarking Information



# Benchmarking

City	Initiative Petition	Process
Houston	15% total votes cast for mayor at general election with last 3 years	Adopt or submit to ballot
San Antonio	10% of qualified voters from last city election (limitations, incl. no zoning)	Adopt or submit to ballot
Dallas	10% qualified voters in last registration list	Apply, 60 days to gather signatures; adopt or ballot
Austin	Lesser of 20,000 or 5% of eligible voters	Adopt or submit to ballot
Fort Worth	20% registered voters	Adopt or petitioner committee may submit for ballot
Plano	Greater of 20% voters from last election or 150	Adopt or submit to ballot
Corpus Christi	5% of the registered voters	City Attorney Drafts, Council Considers, if denies, 90 days to obtain signatures, to ballot



	El Paso has 358,017 registered voters (as of 3/22/2022) with 226,371 voting in the last general election	Based on totals
Houston	15% total votes in mayor election general election within the three years next preceding the date of the filing of such petition	33,956
San Antonio	10% of qualified voters from last regular municipal election	22,637
Dallas	10% of qualified voters from the latest county voter registration list	35,802
Austin	5% of qualified voters or 20, 000 whichever is smaller	17,901
Fort Worth	20% of registered voters	71,603
Corpus Christi	5% registered voters	17,901
Plano	20% of votes cast at the last regular municipal election of the city, or one hundred fifty (150), whichever is greater.	71,603
El Paso	5% voters who cast ballots in the last general City election	11,319

# Benchmark – Voting Member

City	Staffing
San Antonio	Mayor is a <b>Voting Member</b> of City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>no veto power</li></ul>
Dallas	Mayor is a <b>Voting Member</b> of City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>no veto power</li></ul>
Austin	Mayor is a <b>Voting Member</b> of City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>no veto power</li></ul>
Plano	Mayor is a <b>Voting Member</b> of City Council
Corpus Christi	Mayor is a <b>Not a Voting Member</b> of City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mayor has veto power</li></ul>
Fort Worth	Mayor is a <b>Voting Member</b> of City Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>no veto power</li></ul>
Laredo	Mayor is a <b>Voting Member</b> only in case of a tie <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>veto power</li></ul>
Arlington	Mayor is <b>Not a Voting Member</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>veto power</li></ul>
Model Charter	Mayor is a <b>Voting Member</b> of City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>no veto power</li></ul>