



City Charter Amendments

City Charter Subcommittee:
Mayor Pro Tempore Orozco
Council Member Salcido
Council Member Dutra

April 23, 2024

Charter Amendment Requirements

Government Code 34458 Requires:

- 2 Public Hearings & 1 Final Meeting
- First two hearing must be 30 days apart and one must be after business hours
- Final Meeting held at least twenty-one (21) days after second hearing

Timeline

In order to place a measure on the ballot for the November 2024 Election, Council must complete the Charter Amendment Process by August 2024. Staff recommends completion of the process prior to July 2024 to provide adequate time for drafting of ballot language and time to submit the measure to the County.

PROPOSED TIMELINE		
February 13, 2024	First Public Hearing	Complete
March 26, 2024	Second Public Hearing (at least 30 days from 1 st hearing)	Complete
April 23, 2024	Public Meeting (at least 21 days after 2nd hearing)	City Council provides direction to staff on preparation of ballot question(s)

On March 26, 2024, the City Council considered City Charter Subcommittee recommendations. All were accepted except for recommendations for allowing non-registered voters to be appointed to Commissions.

The Committee was tasked with updating recommendations. The affected sections are as follows:

-SECTION 900 – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: INTENTS AND PURPOSES

SECTION 900 – Boards & Commissions

Council Direction:

- 1) **Accept the recommendations of the subcommittee, with the exception of the recommended change to Section 900, which would have added two nonvoting members to the Parks & Recreation Commission and Library Board;**
- 2) **Direct staff to return with language for a second ballot question regarding whether all Watsonville residents, regardless of voter status, may serve on the Parks & Recreation Commission and Library Board; and**
- 3) **3) Set the third public meeting required by Government Code Section 34458 for April 23, 2024.**

Proposed Ballot Questions

Measure #1

Shall the measure amending the Charter of the City of Watsonville to allow Councilmembers to receive employment benefits, adjust the Mayor's salary, modify Council meeting requirements, allow the Council to set compensation for Planning Commissioners, make the Library Board a Commission, update qualifications and duties of City Manager, clarify requirements regarding ordinance publication and hiring attorneys, clarify staff positions and references to City regulations, and remove or revise provisions to be consistent with current law be adopted?

Measure #2

Shall the measure amending the Charter of the City of Watsonville to modify the eligibility requirement for appointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Library Commission from qualified elector to resident of the City of Watsonville be adopted?

Separate from Measure #2, the Subcommittee recommended several clarifications to Section 900. Those clarifications will be included in Measure #1. Both measures require a simple majority to pass.

Recommendation:

Motion Directing staff to finalize ballot question(s) to be included in the ballot the November 5, 2024, Election.