

**CITY OF RICHWOOD
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2022**

MEMBERS:

Mark Guthrie – Chair
Amanda Reynolds – Vice Chair
Lauren LaCount – Member
Kimberly Mayer – Member
Leslie Klug – Member

Staff Liaisons: Kirsten Garcia, City Secretary

General Comments:

The 2022 Charter Review Commission was appointed in October 2022. They met as available in three separate meetings beginning October 20, 2022, through November 22, 2022. The Commission was supported by administrative staff.

Recommendations:

Section 7.02. Initiative.

Qualified voters of the City of Richwood may initiate legislation by submitting a petition addressed to the City Council which requests the submission of a proposed ordinance or resolution to a vote of the qualified voters of the City. The petition must be signed by the qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ **ten percent (10%)** of the qualified voters of the City. The petition shall be signed as provided in section 6.03 of this Charter. The petition may consist of one or more copies as permitted in section 6.04 of this Charter, but each copy shall have attached to it a copy of the proposed ordinance or resolution. The petition shall be filed with the person performing the duties of City Secretary. In the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting and noticed in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the person performing the duties of City Secretary shall present the petition and the proposed ordinance or resolution to the City Council. Upon presentation to it of the petition and the proposed ordinance or resolution, it shall become the duty of the City Council, within ten (10) days after the receipt thereof, to pass and adopt such ordinance or resolution without alteration as to meaning or effect in the opinion of the persons filing the petition or within the time frames established by law, call a special election to be held on the next uniform election date under state law by which lawful notices can be given and full absentee balloting had, at which the qualified voters of the City of Richwood shall vote on the question of adopting or rejecting the proposed legislation. City Council shall be permitted to make any such alterations as are necessary to make such legislation compliant with state law. If any such legislation seeks the enforcement of any illegal act or any act for which the City lacks authority to enforce, City Council shall not pass or adopt the ordinance or resolution.

Rationale

The proposed amendment lowers the threshold of required signatures on a petition by 10%, thus making it more obtainable for residents to present initiatives to the City.

Section 11.12. Charter Review Commission.

The City Council shall appoint each even numbered year a Charter Review Commission of five citizens of the City.

(a) Duties of the Commission. It shall be the duty of such Charter Review Commission to:

1. Inquire into the operations of the City government under the Charter provisions and determine whether any such provisions require revision. To this end public hearings may be held, and the Commission shall have the power to compel the attendance of any officer or employee of the City and to require the submission of any of the City records which it may deem necessary to the conduct of such hearing;
2. Propose any recommendations it may deem desirable to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Charter by the several departments of the City government;
3. Propose, if it deems desirable, amendments to this Charter to improve the effective application of said Charter to current conditions;
4. Report its findings and present its proposed amendments if any, to the City Council.

(b) Action by the City Council. The City Council shall receive and have published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City any report presented by the Charter Review Commission, shall consider any recommendations made, and if any amendments or amendment be presented as a part of such report ~~may~~**shall** order such amendment or amendments to be submitted to the voters of the City in the manner provided by the applicable statute of the State of Texas.

(c) Term of office. The term of office of such Charter Review Commission shall be one year and, if during such term no report is presented to the City Council, then all records of the proceedings of such Commission shall be filed with the person performing the duties of City Secretary and shall become a public record.

Rationale

The proposed amendment requires the City Council to order amendments presented by the Charter Review commission to be submitted to the voters of the City of Richwood.

This report and recommendation are hereby presented to the City Council on January 09, 2023.

Mark Guthrie, Chair

Amanda Reynolds, Vice-Chair

Leslie Klug

Kimberly Mayer

Lauren LaCount