

Two Charter amendments for November 4, 2014 ballot

1. Eliminate the requirement of a run-off election when a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in a special election to fill a vacancy and Allow the Council to choose to appoint to fill a vacant seat or call a special election to fill the vacancy if more than one year but less than 25 months remains in the newly vacated term, with the condition that an appointment does not result in a majority of the Council being appointed rather than elected; and
2. Eliminate the requirement of a run-off election when a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in a general (June) election.

June: general election.
November: special election.
And, special election to fill a vacancy

November 2012 Charter amendment requires a run-off (second special) election even if a candidate in the special election receives a majority (50% +1) of votes cast.

First: Filling a vacancy by special election or appointment

In the first of two special elections to fill a vacancy, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes, regardless of the top candidate receiving more than 50% of votes cast, and the candidate with the second highest number of votes shall be candidates in a second, special run-off election.

Vacancy of one year or less

The Council shall within 45 days appoint to fill the vacant seat. One year must elapse before an appointee is eligible to seek election for two subsequent terms.

Vacancy of 25 months or more

The Council shall fill vacancies by election.

Vacancy of more than one year, but less than 25 months

The Council may either

- Appoint, or
 - call a special election.
- 14 days to decide to appoint or elect.
 - Appoint? 31 days remains between the decision to appoint and the decision of who to appoint.
 - Unable to appoint in 45 days? Call a special election.

Second: Eliminate run-off election when a candidate receives a majority in a general (June) election.

Requires a majority vote winner to participate in a run-off.

The item was attached to a larger item regarding district elections. A fiscal impact statement was neither required nor provided.

Separate ballot items allow voters to distinguish between special election and general election.

Fiscal Impact

Waive Council policy requiring 180 days review.

Fiscal impact is extraordinary cost of leaving Charter language as it currently reads.

- Special election:

\$500,000 - \$600,000

- Run-off special election:

\$1,000,000 - \$1,200,000 for two elections

- The cost of an appointment:

20 hours staff time, or less than \$2,000

- Removal of the requirement for a candidate receiving a majority of votes cast (50% + 1) in a general (June) election saves the cost of a ballot item:

estimated \$47,000 in 2014

actual \$74,298 in 2012