

5/7/19

item 7




The seal of the City of Santa Clara, California, featuring a mission building, the year 1852, and the text "CITY OF SANTA CLARA CALIFORNIA" and "THE MISSION CITY".

## Council Meeting

**19-483:** Action on Voter approved Measure N Work Plan and Charter Review Committee Appointment Process relating to District Elections for the November 2022 Election Cycle

May 7, 2019



**City of Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

## Background

- Santa Clara held its first district-based elections in Nov'18 as required by a ruling of the Santa Clara Superior Court.
- The ruling implemented 6 districts, but did not amend the City's Charter, which states that Council members are elected "at-large".
- Under the state constitution, only a vote of the electorate can change the City Charter.
- Advisory Measure N passed with 70.04% in Nov'18, advising that voters want to engage in a public process to draft charter amendment language and keep the Mayor at-large.

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**POST MEETING MATERIAL**



## New Charter Review Committee

- To engage in a robust public process, the Elections Official is requesting Council appoint a Charter Review Committee to drive this process.
- The committee's scope should be narrowly focused on the Measure N advisory question. We recommend no more than 7 members (3, 5 or 7).



## Scope of Work

- The first step would be for the committee to receive public input on whether the public would like to adopt the current 6-district plan, or examine support for another configuration.

District #	Election Month and Year
Mayor & Districts 2, 3	November 2018 and every 4 years thereafter
Districts 1, 4, 5, 6	November 2020 and every 4 years thereafter

- If public input recommends a change, a new workplan will need to be developed and studied to be implemented for the 2022 election. No change will occur for November 2020 in any scenario. 4



## Options for Appointing the Committee

- A.** Application process similar to boards and commissions
  - The communications, outreach and interview/selection process will follow the same process for Boards and Commissions.
- B.** Each member of the Council nominates one member
  - Council members appoint a member from their respective district, or
  - All Council members can select committee members at-large.
- C.** Any other process the Council decides
  - Recommend that committee member eligibility may conform to the same requirements for Boards and Commissions.

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## Timing

- The proposed Charter Amendment can either be placed on the March 3, 2020 primary ballot, or the November 3, 2020 general election ballot. The primary election work plan is extremely aggressive, and historically does not have as much voter turnout as in the general election.
- For greater participation and a more robust public outreach, the Elections Officer recommends that the Council direct the committee to target the November 3, 2020 election to place this question on the ballot.
- No change is intended to go in effect until the 2022 election.

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## Work Plan

Action	Appointment Process	Application Process
Council selects work plan appointment process	May 7, 2019	May 7, 2019
Council provides nominee names to the Asst City Clerk	June 2019	Not Applicable
City accepts committee applications (appointed members still to complete application)	July 2019	July 2019
Council interviews committee applicants and appoints Charter Review Committee	Appt Aug-Sept 2019	Aug-Sept 2019
Charter Review Committee holds initial meeting to discuss workplan and set public input session dates	September 2019	September 2019
Charter Review Committee holds public input sessions	Fall 2019 - Spring 2020	Fall 2019 - Spring 2020
Council approves Charter Review Committee recommended Charter Amendment ballot language	June 2020	June 2020
City Council adopts resolution to call election, consolidate with County and provide election services to place measure on ballot and set date for arguments, impartial analysis and rebuttals	July 7 or 21, 2020	July 7 or 21, 2020
Election Day	November, 2020	November, 2020



## Recommendation

- City Council direction on Charter Review Committee appointment process:
  1. Application Process;
  2. Nomination Process; or
  3. Other process deemed appropriate by Council.
- The City Clerk recommends the **November 2020 Election** for placement of a Charter Amendment related to electing councilmembers by district, as the elections official to ensure greater participation and more time for robust community input.



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