

City of Santa Clara

Charter Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee Group 1

Powers & Structure of City Government: Rules/Process for Action

May 12, 2026 6:00 p.m.,
Sparacino Conference Room



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

Proposed Meeting Agenda

- Recap of April 9th meeting
- Presentation/Discussion/Direction regarding proposed final language for recommendation to the full CRC
- Next Steps



Group One

Report out from April 9th Meeting

- **Members Kelly, Nikolai, Jensen and Sosinski (remote) in attendance**
- **Meeting convened at 6:05 p.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**
- **Staff presentation included:**
- **(1) recap of subcommittee issues/activities and April 7th report to Council on Charter Project Progress/Proposed Reorganization, and (2) review of proposed reorganization and language to (a) consolidate Articles I through V into one Article entitled “Essential Terms” (under discussion); (b) revised and added Sections to the Essential Terms Article, and (c) initial update of the “Elected Officials” Sections.**

Group One

Report out from April 9th Meeting (cont'd)

- **Issues presented/discussed included:**
 - What to refer to as the definitive authority on City boundaries [Section 101]
 - Ability to eliminate Article III Succession, and consolidate into a single section/reference [old Sections 300 through 304]
 - Continuing effort to convert unnecessary “legal” language into “layperson’s” language [throughout]
 - Revised, broadened, statement of City general authority as a Charter City, including ability to “make and enforce all laws and regulations with respect to “municipal affairs” [Section 102.1]
 - Addition of a very explicit “relationship with other laws” Section [Section 102.2]
 - Proposed consolidation of existing Charter limitations on City authority into one Section to include: citizen power of initiative/referendum; (revised) vote required for disposal of a public utility; (potentially revised) Measure R language (Section 714.1); (potentially deleted) disposal of real estate requirements (Section 714); and (potentially revised) prohibition on financing a nuclear power plant or interest in one without an election (old Section 1321)
- **Agenda for May 12th meeting to include:**
 - Presentation of final language for all assigned Sections, and a recommendation to the full CRC



Specific Issues to Discuss/Resolve

- Review proposed Preamble language (**Preamble**)
- Final review of “Essential Terms” sections, and proposed new title: “Foundational Terms”
- Minor revisions to City Council/Manager form of government Section.
- Review proposed final language for who administers “Resident” and “Qualified Elector” status
- Ordinance adoption and publication terms, including possible change to post adoption publication protocol
- Official Bonds and Oath of Office sections, still under review
- Miscellaneous Sections, still under review



Next Steps

- Calendar next Committee meeting (if necessary)
- Assign Committee Member/Staff Follow Ups
- If ready, confirm process/responsibility for preparing and presenting report out with recommendation to the full CRC at upcoming May 20th meeting