

Charter Amendment – Council Districts

Sec. 600 City elected officers.

No person shall be eligible to hold ~~any~~ the elective office ~~in the City including of~~ Mayor, ~~City Council~~, or Chief of the Police Department and City Clerk, unless he or she is a resident and a qualified registered elector of the City. No person shall be eligible to hold the elective office of City Council Member other than Mayor unless he or she is a qualified elector of the City and a resident in the district represented by the Council Member office.

The elective officers of the City shall consist of a City Council composed of seven members and the Chief of the Police Department. The members of the City Council, (which includes the office of the Mayor) and the Chief of the Police Department and the City Clerk shall be elected from the City ~~at large~~ at the times and in the manner provided in this Charter. Except as otherwise herein provided, a person elected to an office for other than an unexpired term shall serve a term of four years and shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The term shall commence on the date the City Council certifies the canvass of the election returns submitted to it by the County Registrar of Voters.

The person receiving the most votes cast for a particular City office shall be declared duly elected. Ties shall be broken as provided from time to time by ordinance.

The office of Mayor shall be separately voted upon and is a separate office. The person elected at any election to the office designated “Mayor” shall be deemed elected, both as a Mayor and as a member of the Council. Although the Mayor is a Council member, his or her election does not change the number of Council members from seven.

No person shall be a candidate for both Mayor and a City Council seat at the same election. However, an incumbent member of the City Council may run for the elective office of Mayor, and the Mayor may run for the separate office of Mayor or other City Council office. However, at no time shall a member of the Council, including the Mayor, hold more than one City elective office. Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in this Charter, no incumbent member of the City Council while serving in such office with an unexpired term of more than six months shall be a candidate for any ~~numbered~~ Council seat other than the one which he or she holds.

Attachment 1
Proposed Draft Charter Amendment Language Regarding District Elections

Section 700.1 of the Charter of the City of Santa Clara is amended to be entitled and to read as follows:

Sec. 700.1 Elections – City Council ~~Designation of seats.~~

Members of the City Council, excepting the Mayor, shall be elected by district. There shall be three districts to be known as District 1, District 2 and District 3, with elections to be conducted as follows:

- a. Each District shall be represented by two (2) Council Members.
- b. In the election to be held in November 2020, the voters of Districts 1 and 2 shall each nominate and elect one (1) Council Member who meets the qualifications set forth in Section 600 of this Charter for four year terms each.
- c. In the election to be held in November 2020, the voters of District 3 shall nominate and elect two (2) Council Members who meet the qualifications set forth in Section 600 of this Charter. The candidate who receives the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four year term; and the candidate who receives the second greatest number of votes shall be elected to a two year term.
- d. In the election to be held in November 2022 and each district election held thereafter, the voters of each District shall nominate and elect one (1) Council Member who meets the qualifications set forth in Section 600 of this Charter for a four year term.

Sec. 700.2 Council Districts

The method by which Districts are to be drawn and redrawn and the method of voting for City Council shall be enacted by ordinance of the City Council.

(Alternate section) The method by which Districts are to be drawn and redrawn shall be enacted by ordinance of the City Council in accordance with Elections Code Section 23003.

Upon any redistricting pursuant to the provisions of this section of the Charter or the ordinances enacted hereunder, each incumbent member of the Council will continue, during the remainder of the member's term, to hold office and represent the district by which the member was elected prior to such redistricting, notwithstanding any provision of Section 600 requiring a member to be a resident of the district represented by such member.