

#8 Proposed Charter Amendment

City Council District Elections (By Petition)

City of Columbus

Full Text of the Proposed Amendment

To amend the City Charter to eliminate at-large voting for city council district elections and to replace it with district-based voting wherein council members are elected or recalled only by the Columbus voters who live within their respective districts

Sec. 3. - Legislative powers.

The legislative powers of the city, except as reserved to the people by this charter, shall be vested in a council, consisting of nine members elected ~~from districts by the electors of the city~~ by only the electors of each member's respective district.

Sec. 4. - Council members.

Each member of council shall be elected from one of nine districts by the electors of ~~the city~~ that district. All council members shall serve for a term of four years.

Sec. 41-5. - Election of municipal officers.

~~With the exception of city council offices, every~~ Every elector of the city may vote for any municipal office appearing on a primary, general, or special election ballot. Elector may only vote for candidates for city council from the district in which the elector resides. The two candidates for nomination to any municipal office, including a councilmember elected by district, who shall receive the greatest number of votes in a primary election shall be placed on the ballot at a regular municipal election, and the candidates at the regular municipal election who shall receive the highest number of votes for their respective offices at such regular municipal election, shall be declared elected. The ballot in each district shall contain both citywide races and the district council race for that respective district. A tie between candidates for any office shall be decided by lot under the direction of the election authorities, as provided by the general election laws of the state.

Sec. 46. - The recall.

Any elective officer provided for in this charter may be removed from office by recall petition. Such recall petition shall contain the signatures of not less than fifteen per cent of the number of electors who voted in the last preceding regular municipal election for mayor, except that a recall petition for a councilmember shall contain the signatures of electors from their district only, equaling not less than fifteen per cent of the number of electors from their district who voted in the last preceding regular municipal election for mayor. Except as herein otherwise provided, no petition for recall shall be filed within one-hundred-eighty days after a person takes office, or within ninety days preceding a regular municipal election for such office. No more than three elective officers may be subject to the recall at any election.

Sec. 46-3 - Placement of recall on the ballot.

The question of the removal of the elective officer shall be submitted to the electors of the city or, if the officer is a council member, to the electors of the district the officer represents, at the next regular municipal election if one shall occur not less than sixty, nor more than one-hundred-twenty, days after the city clerk determines the sufficiency of the same. If no such election will be held within the period herein provided, the city clerk shall order and provide for a special election within such period. If more than three valid petitions have been found sufficient, the three petitions bearing the most valid signatures shall be submitted at such an election. After such election, the city clerk shall repeat the provisions herein until all such sufficient petitions have been submitted to the electors.