

PART I - CHARTER
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ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS

Sec. 8-1. Elections; terms; nonpartisan elections.

- A. Only the mayor and the eight (8) councilmen shall be elected by the qualified electors of the city.
- B. At the elections in 1976, one councilman from each of the four (4) wards of the city shall be elected for a five-year term.
- C. At the elections in 1979 and in every fourth year thereafter, the mayor and one councilman from each of the four (4) wards of the city shall be elected for four-year terms.
- D. At the elections in 1981 and in every fourth year thereafter, one councilman from each of the four (4) wards of the city shall be elected for a four-year term.
- E. The mayor and councilmen shall serve for the terms indicated, and until their respective successors are elected and qualify. Their terms shall begin on the first Monday in May in the year in which elected. If a mayor-elect or a councilman-elect fails to qualify within one month after the beginning of his term, his office shall become vacant, and the vacancy shall be filled as other vacancies in the office of mayor or councilman are filled.
- F. The mayor shall be elected at large, by the qualified electors of the entire city. The councilmen shall be elected by ward, by the qualified electors of their respective wards.
- G. The elections shall be nonpartisan; and no party designation or emblem shall be placed on the ballots.
- H. Nothing in this charter shall prohibit the use of voting machines.

Sec. 8-2. Wards; number; equal.

- A. There shall be four (4) wards, which shall be numbered from one to four (4). The council by ordinance may change the ward boundaries.
- B. The wards shall be formed of compact, contiguous territory, and shall be substantially equal in population.
- C. At intervals of not more than ten (10) years, the council shall review the wards and their boundaries, and if necessary, shall revise them to achieve and maintain substantial equality in population among the wards.

Sec. 8-3. Primary election; filing.

Any person qualified for the office for which he/she is filing may have his name placed on the ballot for the primary election as a candidate for mayor or councilman from his ward by filing a declaration of candidacy with the Secretary of the County Election Board no earlier than 8:00 a.m., on the first Monday in February and no later than 5:00 p.m., on the next succeeding Wednesday.

(Res. No. R338-082106)

Sec. 8-4. Primary election; time; voting.

A primary election shall be held on the first Tuesday in March, 2007, and every odd-numbered year thereafter to nominate candidates for mayor and/or councilmen to succeed those whose terms are expiring in the respective year. If only one person is a candidate for an office to be filled, he/she shall be not only nominated, but also elected ipso facto; and his name shall not appear on the primary or general election ballot. Every qualified elector of the City shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for mayor, and every qualified elector of a ward shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for councilman from his ward.

(Amendment to Charter adopted March 15, 1983; Res. No. R338-082106)

Sec. 8-5. Primary election; who nominated or elected.

- A. In a primary election, the two (2) candidates for each office to be filled receiving the greatest number of votes for that office, shall be nominated. If one of the candidates for an office receives a majority of all votes cast for all candidates for that office, he alone shall be not only nominated, but also elected ipso facto; and his name shall not appear on the ballot for the general election.
- B. In case of failure to nominate because of a tie, the nominee or nominees (as the case may be) shall be determined from among those tying in the manner provided by law.
- C. If one of the two (2) candidates for an office nominated in a primary election dies or withdraws before the general election, the remaining candidate shall be elected ipso facto; and his name need not appear on the ballot for the general election.

Sec. 8-6. General election; time; who elected.

A general election shall be held in the city on the first Tuesday in April of 1976, 1979, and every odd-numbered year thereafter to elect the mayor and/or councilmen to succeed those whose terms are expiring in the respective year. Every qualified elector of the city may vote for one of the two (2) candidates for mayor, and every qualified elector of a ward may vote for one of the two (2) candidates for councilman from his ward; but electors may not vote for any person other than the two (2) nominees for an office. The candidate for each office receiving the greatest number of votes, shall be elected. In case of failure to elect because of a tie, the election shall be determined from among those tying, in the manner provided by law.

(Amendment to Charter adopted March 15, 1983)

Sec. 8-7. Registered qualified electors.

The term qualified elector as used in this charter means a person who has the qualifications prescribed for electors by the state constitution and law, and who is registered as may be required by law.

Sec. 8-8. Elections; when not held.

If there are no candidates and no questions to be voted upon at a primary or general election, the election shall not be held.

Sec. 8-9. State constitution and law to govern.

The provisions of the state constitution and law applicable to elections in cities operating under charters shall govern such elections in this city insofar as they are applicable and are not superseded by this charter.