

Proposed Charter Amendments

ARTICLE V. CITY COUNCIL

SECTION 3. DATE OF ELECTION; CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR PLACES; PLACES DESIGNATED.

- (1) The regular municipal elections of the City of North Richland Hills shall be held on the first Saturday of May of each year **an election is required**, and the same shall be conducted and the results canvassed and announced by the election authorities prescribed by the Election Code of the State of Texas, and said Code shall control in all municipal elections except as otherwise herein provided.

The Mayor and Council members shall be elected for three (3) year terms and shall be elected by the majority vote of all the qualified voters in the City of North Richland Hills voting at an election called for that purpose. The Mayor and Council member Places 2, 4, and 6 shall be elected for a three (3) year term at the May 2026 general election and shall be elected for three (3) year terms thereafter. Council member Places 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall be elected for a three (3) year term at the May 2027 general election and shall be elected for three (3) year terms thereafter.

- (2) If the Mayor or a Council member announces candidacy or becomes a candidate in any general, special, or primary election for any office of profit or trust under the laws of this State or the United States other than office then held, such announcement or such candidacy shall constitute an automatic resignation of the office then held, and the vacancy thereby created shall be filled pursuant to law in the same manner as other vacancies for such office are filled.

SECTION 3A. TERM LIMITS

- (1) A person who has served as a Council member, regardless of place, for three (3) terms shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for or to serve as a Council member. This shall not prevent a person from becoming a candidate for or serving as Mayor upon the expiration of the third term as a council member, unless the person has already served three (3) terms as Mayor.
- (2) A person who has served as Mayor for three (3) terms shall not again be eligible to become a candidate for or to serve as Mayor. This shall not prevent a person from becoming a candidate for or serving as a Council member upon expiration of the third term as Mayor, unless the person has already served three (3) terms as a Council member, regardless of place.
- (3) As used in this section, "Council member" means Places 1 through 7 and does not mean "Mayor."
- (4) Any length of service within a three-year term that exceeds 730 days, is a term served.
- (5) If a person vacates an office after serving for a period that exceeds 360 days it shall serve as a term served.

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SECTION 7. VACANCIES.

In case of a vacancy from any cause in the office of Mayor or a Council member, the City Council shall order a special election to fill such vacancy **within one hundred twenty (120) days after such vacancy occurs**, provided, however, in the case of only one (1) vacancy when there remains **three hundred sixty-four (364) days** or less until the expiration of the office to be filled, the Mayor, with the approval of a majority of the City Council, may appoint a person to fill such vacancy.

ARTICLE VI. POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 7. MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

- (1) The Municipal Court shall be presided over by a magistrate to be known as Municipal Judge who shall be an attorney duly licensed by the State of Texas. The City Council may appoint one or more municipal judges. The judges shall be appointed by ordinance for a two (2) year term ~~coinciding with the term of the Mayor~~. If the Municipal Judge is unable to act for any reason, the Mayor may appoint a qualified person to act as substitute Municipal Judge. The City Council shall have the power to create a second Municipal Court to be known as Municipal Court Number 2. The Mayor of the City shall be empowered to administer oaths and issue warnings to persons in police custody if the Mayor is qualified pursuant to State Law by attendance and completion of the mandatory courses prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE XIV. PLANNING/BUILDING REGULATIONS

SUBPART A. PLANNING

SECTION 1. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

There shall be established a Planning and Zoning Commission which shall consist of seven (7) citizens of the City of North Richland Hills who own real property within the city. The City Council may appoint alternate members to the Commission who shall serve in the absence or disability of any commissioner. The members of said commission, and any alternate commissioner, shall be appointed by the City Council for a term **of the same length as the term of the Mayor and Council members**. Three (3) members of the Planning and Zoning Commission shall be so appointed **to terms that coincide with the terms of Council member Places 2, 4, and 6**. Four (4) members shall be so appointed **to terms that coincide with the terms of Council member Places 1, 3, 5, and 7**. Vacancies and unexpired terms shall be filled by the City Council for the remainder of that member's term. The Commission shall elect a chairman from among its membership.

The commission shall meet at least once monthly and may schedule additional regular meetings as are required by the level of agenda activity. A quorum for any meeting of the commission shall be a majority of the members. Members of the commission serve at the

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pleasure of the City Council and may be removed by a majority vote of the City Council. The Commission shall keep minutes of its proceedings which shall be of public record. The Commission shall serve without compensation.

ARTICLE IX. CONTRACTS

SECTION 4. COMPETITIVE BIDDING

~~Unless otherwise allowed by law, a~~ All purchases ~~required by law to be competitively bid over \$50,000.00~~ shall be made only after competitive bidding. Advertisement for bids shall be published in the official newspaper at least ten days before opening of bids. The bids will be sealed and opened in public as directed by the City Council. The City Council shall select the bid most advantageous to the City. The City Council shall have the right to reject all bids. ~~The \$50,000.00 limit presently conforms to State law and the figure shall change as the State statute is amended in the future.~~ This competitive bidding requirement may be waived only upon a finding by the City Council that an emergency exists or in the event of public calamity where it is necessary to act at once to protect the citizens or property of the City.