



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** February 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Consider Resolution No. 2026-016, calling the May 2, 2026 City Council Election, and authorizing the Mayor to execute a joint election agreement with Tarrant County and other political subdivisions for election services.

PRESENTER: Alicia Richardson, City Secretary/Chief Governance Officer

SUMMARY:

The City Council is required by the Texas Election Code ("Election Code") to order the city's general election of officials. Resolution No. 2026-016, orders the city's election for May 2, 2026. The resolution also authorizes the city to hold its election jointly with other Tarrant County entities, contract with Tarrant County to administer the joint election, and establish voting locations.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The City Secretary's Office is responsible for conducting municipal elections as prescribed by the Election Code of the State of Texas and the City of North Richland Hills' City Charter.

The City Charter states that the governing body of the city shall consist of a Mayor and seven (7) Council members who shall be elected for a term of three years. All places, including the mayor, shall be elected from the City at large by the qualified voters of the City.

City Charter Amendment - Elected Official Term

The City of North Richland Hills conducted a special election on November 4, 2025 to consider six proposed charter amendments. Proposition A extended the Mayor and City Council terms from two years to three years, requires candidates to win by a majority vote, and establish a phased election schedule to transition to three-year terms. It also defines how partial terms count toward term limits and clarifies that vacancies with one year or less remaining may be filled by appointment, while those with more than one year must be filled by special election.

Proposition A passed with 8,018 for and 2,250 against.





Phased Election Cycle

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.

Pursuant to Section 3.004 of the Texas Election Code, the governing body of a political subdivision shall order the general election. An election may only be held on a uniform election date - first Saturday in May or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The City Charter designates regular municipal elections shall be held on the first Saturday in May.

In accordance with state law, Resolution No. 2026-016 orders the city's general election of officials to be held on May 2, 2026. People elected to offices for Mayor and Council member Places 2, 4, and 6 shall be for a term of three years. The resolution establishes Election Day voting locations, provides for the appointment of election officials, early voting and Election Day procedures, and authorizes the Mayor to execute a joint election agreement and contract for election services with Tarrant County.

Candidate and Voting Information

The filing period for the 2026 general election began January 14, 2026, and concludes on February 13, 2026. Candidates will file their completed application with the City Secretary's Office during the business week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Early voting will begin April 20, 2026, and continue through April 28, 2026, excluding San Jacinto Day (April 21). In the event a run-off election should be needed, the resolution sets June 13, 2026, as the run-off date, provides for early voting days and times, and allows the contract with Tarrant County to be extended to the run-off election.

Tarrant County has been approved to utilize vote centers on Election Day. The Tarrant County Commissioner's Court approved participation in the countywide polling place program. This allows qualified voters the ability to cast their ballot on Election Day at any polling location within Tarrant County. Previously, qualified voters were required to cast their ballot on Election Day at their preassigned polling location based on their precinct.

Joint Election Agreement

As in previous years, the city's election will be held jointly with other Tarrant County political entities holding an election to be administered by Tarrant County. Following the



filing period (February 13, 2026), Tarrant County will provide a finalized contract that includes all entities participating in and holding an election. The election contract will be like previous contracts with the county and will include the following provisions:

- Tarrant County Elections Administrator, or his designee, will serve as the administrator of the joint election with each participating entity and be responsible for decisions and actions as required by law.
- Early voting will be conducted jointly with all participating entities beginning on April 20, 2026, and ending on April 28, 2026, at the locations and times established by the county. North Richland Hills voters may vote early at:
 - ✦ Tarrant County Elections Center, 2700 Premier, Fort Worth (Main Early Voting Location)
 - ✦ North Richland Hills City Hall (Community Room), 4301 City Point Drive
 - ✦ North Richland Hills Library (Community Room), 9015 Grand Avenue; or
 - ✦ any joint early voting locations within Tarrant County.
- Voting will be conducted exclusively on the county's Hart InterCivic Verity Voting System. This hybrid system provides a paper trail for every voter, combined with the latest advancement in digital security.
- Ballots that contain content for more than one joint participant because of overlapping territory will be arranged in the following order: Independent School District, City, Water District(s), College District and other political subdivisions.
- Vote Centers on Election Day – qualified North Richland Hills voters can cast their ballot at any polling location within Tarrant County.
- The Tarrant County Elections Administrator will release unofficial cumulative totals, and precinct returns of the election as precincts report to the central and remote tabulating stations and the returns are tabulated. The unofficial cumulative totals and precinct returns will be released to the joint participants, candidates, press, and public by distribution of hard copies at the central counting station and by posting to the county web site. Each participating entity will receive their election results from the county's website.
- Election expenses will be allocated among the participating entities.
- The Elections Administrator will be the general custodian of the voted ballots and all records of the joint election.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 2026-016.