

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-O-160

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, ORDERING AND PROCLAIMING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO RUN CONCURRENT WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO BE HELD WITHIN THE CITY ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, DESIGNATING POLLING PLACES, PUBLICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas, has determined it appropriate to submit to the qualified voters of the City for their adoption or rejection thereof of proposed amendments to the existing City Charter of the City of Laredo, Texas, pursuant to Section 9.004(a) of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 9.04(b) of the Texas Local Government Code requires that an ordinance be approved ordering said election to be held on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Texas Election Code and establishing the procedure to be followed in said election; and

WHEREAS, Section 41.001 of the Texas Election Code establishes November 5, 2024, as a uniform election date to conduct an election; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2024, a public hearing was held presenting the Charter amendments proposed by the City Council at the special city council meeting on July 23, 2024, to be submitted to the voters on the next uniform election date to be held on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Laredo, Texas, hereby directs City staff to publish notice of the special City Charter Amendment Election in a newspaper of general circulation on the same day in each of two (2) successive weeks, the date of the first publication to be not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the election on November 5, 2024, in compliance with Section 9.004(c) of the Texas Local Government Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1. A City of Laredo City Charter Amendment Election is hereby ordered to be held with the General City Election scheduled on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, with the following propositions to be submitted to the qualified voters of the City:

Proposition 1

Shall the City Charter be amended to require Council Members to reside and be registered to vote in the district for which they file for candidacy for one hundred and eighty (180) days rather than ninety (90) days preceding the last day for filing of an application for candidacy; require the Mayor and Council Members to reside in the City and their respective districts throughout their term of office; have residence defined pursuant to the Texas Election Code Section 1.015; and allow for grammatical and punctuation corrections in Section 2.01?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 2

Shall the City Charter be amended to state that a person delayed taking the oath of office for longer than twelve (12) months due to an election contest is not deemed to have served a full term?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 3

Shall the City Charter be amended to provide that if the Mayor or Council Member held a City office or City employment immediately before their election as the Mayor or Council Member, then he or she may apply to return to his or her prior City office or City employment after the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected, with re-employment based on the needs of the City?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 4

Shall the City Charter be amended to provide that the Mayor or Council Member who is removed from office due to recall, conviction of a felony or court order, irrespective of the length of time served, thereafter be ineligible to hold elected office with the City of Laredo?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 5

Shall the City Charter be amended to allow the Mayor to vote in all cases and allow for punctuation and numbering corrections in Section 2.15?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 6

Shall the City Charter be amended to allow the Mayor to veto a vote at the same meeting or the next meeting, rather than the next two meetings, and allow for grammatical corrections in Section 2.15?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 7

Shall the City Charter be amended to require the recommendation of the City Manager and no less than five votes of members of the City Council to appoint and no less than six votes of members of the City Council (if the Mayor is allowed to by the approval of Proposed Charter Amendment 5) to remove the City Secretary, Internal Auditor, City Attorney, Clerk of the Municipal Court, and Planning and Zoning Director; and allow for grammatical corrections in Section 2.16?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 8

Shall the City Charter be amended to require six votes to remove the City Manager, rather than five votes with no ability to veto by the Mayor?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 9

Shall the City Charter be amended to increase the number of elected Municipal Court Judges from one (1) to two (2); require three (3) years of experience in the practice of law; and provide for qualifications, appointments, confirmation, and removal of Associate Municipal Court Judges?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 10

Shall the City Charter be amended to grant the City Council the authority to submit binding and nonbinding elections for proposed ordinances to the voters and allow for numbering corrections in Section 11.10?

YES ()

NO ()

Proposition 11

Shall the City Charter nepotism article be amended to also prohibit persons related within the second degree by affinity or within the third degree of members of decision-making boards and commissions to be appointed to any office, position, clerkship, or other position with the City; but reduce the amount of time continuously employed by the City from two (2) years to six (6) months for existing employees to be exempt from the nepotism prohibition, except for relations with members of the Ethics Commission and the Civil Service Commission?

YES ()

NO ()

SECTION 2. The City Manager and City Secretary, in consultation with the City Attorney, are hereby authorized and directed to take any additional action necessary to comply with provisions of the Texas Election Code or other state and federal statutes and constitutions in carrying out the conduct of the election, whether or not expressly authorized herein.

SECTION 3. Notice of the City Charter Amendment Election on November 5, 2024, shall be given by publishing a substantial copy of the proposed amendment, both in English and in Spanish, in a newspaper of general circulation on the same day in each of two successive weeks, with the first publication occurring before the 14th date of the election; and a substantial copy of this Ordinance, both in English and in Spanish, shall be posted at designated public places in the City of Laredo and also at City Hall, not less than 21 days prior to Election Day.

SECTION 4. The City Charter Amendment Election on November 5, 2024, shall be held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code and Texas Government Code, as amended, and as may be required by any other law. The official ballots for the City Charter Amendment Election shall be prepared in accordance with the Texas Election Code. All election materials and proceedings shall be printed in both English and Spanish.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, shall be held to be invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall nevertheless be valid. The City Council further declares that this Ordinance would remain enacted without such invalid provision.

SECTION 6. It is officially found, determined, and declared that the meeting at which this Ordinance is finally adopted was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the public business to be considered at such meeting, including this Ordinance, was given, in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

DULY PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

**DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO
MAYOR**

ATTESTED:

MARIO MALDONADO, JR
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DOANH “ZONE” T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY