

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION submitting a proposition to the qualified electors of the City to amend Section 2 of Article IV and Section 3 of Article XIX of the City Charter to provide for changes to the terms of office under specified conditions; authorizing the City Clerk and the Executive Director of the Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to enable the proposed amendment to appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot and in the local voters' pamphlet; requesting the King County Elections Director to place the proposed amendment on the November 5, 2024 ballot; and providing for publication of the amendment.

..body

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Article XIX of the City Charter provides that all elected officials shall serve four-year terms, unless otherwise specified in the Charter; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article IV of the City Charter currently provides that seven of the City's nine Councilmembers have terms that start and end at the same time; and

WHEREAS, this can result in a supermajority of Councilmembers whose terms end at the same time; and

WHEREAS, by changing the sequencing of Council elections, the City can avoid the disruption caused by a supermajority of Councilmembers being up for election in the same year; and

WHEREAS, by staggering the sequencing of Council elections voters will have the opportunity to support the election of a more representative selection of members each election cycle, allowing for more consistent elections and greater opportunity to make voters voices heard more swiftly and consistently; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has considered changing the election dates of local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, currently the City can only respond to the need to change the terms of elected officials through a Charter amendment; NOW, THEREFORE,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

2 Section 1. In accordance with Section 1 of Article XX of the City Charter, Section 2 of
3 Article IV of the City Charter is proposed to be amended as follows:

4 **Article IV Legislative Department**

5 **Sec. 2. CITY COUNCIL, MEMBERS:**

6 To ensure members of the ~~((city council))~~ City Council are closer to the people they represent, to
7 enable voters to better know their Councilmembers, and to provide a mixed system of district
8 and at-large representation, the City Council shall consist of nine ~~((9))~~ members, with positions
9 1 through 7 elected by districts and positions 8 and 9 elected from the City at-large.

10 * * *

11 ~~((Subdivision E. TRANSITION PROVISIONS:~~

12 ~~Notwithstanding Article XIX, Section 3, the four positions elected at the 2013 general~~
13 ~~municipal election (positions 2, 4, 6, and 8) shall each be for two year terms ending at midnight,~~
14 ~~December 31, 2015. The two at large positions created by Section 1 of this Amendment and~~
15 ~~elected at the 2015 general municipal election shall be for two year terms ending at midnight,~~
16 ~~December 31, 2017. The seven district positions created by Section 1 of this Amendment and~~
17 ~~elected at the 2015 general municipal election shall be for four years terms ending at midnight,~~
18 ~~December 31, 2019. After the 2015 general municipal election, all nine City Council positions~~
19 ~~shall be for four year terms under Article XIX and this Subdivision shall be of no further effect.))~~

20 Subdivision E. TERM STAGGERING PROVISIONS:

21 Notwithstanding Article XIX, Section 3:

1 Positions 2, 4, and 6 as elected at the 2027 municipal general election shall have terms of
2 two years. As elected at the 2029 municipal general election and thereafter, those positions shall
3 have terms of four years.

4 After all Councilmembers elected at the 2029 municipal general election start their terms,
5 this Subdivision expires and may be removed from the Charter.

6 Section 2. In accordance with Section 1 of Article XX of the City Charter, Section 3 of
7 Article XIX of the City Charter is proposed to be amended as follows:

8 **Article XIX Officers; Terms and Vacancies**

9 **Sec. 3 TERMS OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS:**

10 The terms of the Mayor, the City Attorney, and of Councilmembers shall be four years, except
11 when this Charter provides otherwise.

12 Section 3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to
13 place the proposed City Charter amendment before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election,
14 including but not limited to publishing the proposed amendment as provided by state law and the
15 City Charter.

16 Section 4. The Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission is
17 authorized and requested to take those actions necessary to place information regarding the
18 proposed City Charter amendment in the November 5, 2024 voters' pamphlet.

19 Section 5. The Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio
20 supervisor of elections, is requested to call for a special election and place the proposed City
21 Charter amendment on the November 5, 2024 ballot (with the Charter amendment number
22 updated if necessary). The following ballot title is submitted to the City Attorney for
23 consideration:

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

CHARTER AMENDMENT NUMBER 30

City of Seattle proposed Charter Amendment No. 30 concerns terms of Councilmembers.

This measure would create two-year terms for Councilmember positions 2, 4, and 6 (2027-2029) so that subsequent election cycles would elect Councilmembers from even-numbered districts in 2029 and Councilmembers from odd-numbered districts in 2031.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes _____

No _____

DRAFT

1 Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2023,

2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of

3 _____, 2023.

4 _____

5 President _____ of the City Council

6 Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2023.

7 _____

8 Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

9 (Seal)

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