

## Council to Vote on Proposed Charter Changes – June 25<sup>th</sup>

June 21, 2014



Councilmembers will discuss and vote on the changes to the charter that will appear on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. DHL continues to strongly advocate that residents make their opinions known to the Council, as there are several proposals of serious import.

Possibly the most controversial of the proposals is to raise the salaries of the council and mayor to \$60,000 and \$80,000 respectively, beginning in June 2015.

The proposals with the greatest potential long-term impact are most likely those regarding the redistricting process. The Charter Review Commission committed itself publicly to listen to the desires of city residents and change the process so that it was more inclusive, transparent, and responsible to the opinions of the public. Now the debate is whether what they proposed will have that result. The proposals include:

- New guidelines for appointees, requiring that they are registered to vote and meet the same qualifications as for service on a city commission.
- New guidelines for the configuration of districts.
- The prohibition of communication between council members, applicants to the commission, and redistricting commissioners during the redistricting process, except in open meetings.
- The requirement of a written explanation, 72 hours public notice, and three-fourths vote of the city council to modify the proposed map.

Other proposals include changing responsibility for the approval of the city auditor's budget from the city manager to the City Council, and requiring more information on the ballot for bond elections. A full list of the proposals can be found [here](#). They are listed under Agenda Item 69.