



INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE FOR THE CITY OF EDGEWATER NOVEMBER 8, 2016 CHARTER BALLOT LANGUAGE

- ⊕ **BUILDING HEIGHT FLOOR ELEVATION**
- ⊕ **REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS RELATED TO TRANSITION TO EVEN NUMBERED YEAR ELECTION SCHEDULE**
- ⊕ **COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMPENSATION INCREASE AND REMOVAL OF COUNCIL AUTHORITY TO ADJUST COMPENSATION**
- ⊕ **CHARTER LIMITATIONS ON BORROWING**
- ⊕ **ESTABLISHING RESERVES AT A MINIMUM OF 15 PERCENT OF ALL OPERATING FUNDS**
- ⊕ **ADDITIONAL FORFEITURE OF OFFICE CHARTER PROVISIONS**

In accordance with the Charter for the City of Edgewater, the Charter shall be reviewed every 5-years. Any changes to the Charter must also go before the registered voters of the City in order for such recommended amendments to be approved or denied. The City Council customarily appoints a citizen committee to evaluate and make recommendations to the City Council regarding any recommended amendments. The City Council will then review and approve or amend the recommendations before they are placed on the ballot.

Included are the proposed amendments to the Charter that will be presented to the citizens on the November 8, 2016 General Election Ballot. Each amendment is presented separately and will require a majority approval for any amendment to be effective. Also included in this informational brochure are discussion areas outlining reasons as to why the five appointed Citizen Charter Review Committee considered and presented each proposed amendment to the City Council.

This brochure is intended only to provide information regarding the Charter amendment language for the November 8, 2016 ballot. It also includes discussion areas to help further explain discussions and rationale regarding such proposed amendments. This brochure is **NOT** intended to encourage and/or persuade any registered voter how to vote during the November 8, 2016 election.

BALLOT SUMMARY #1

DISCUSSION: Currently, the Charter prohibits any residential building structure east of the centerline of Ridgewood Ave./US1 to be built over 35 feet tall. The problem with the present language is that the point of measurement is the crown of the road of the nearest adjacent roadway. Many areas east of Ridgewood Ave./US1 which have naturally occurring elevated properties significantly higher than the “crown of the road” and would prohibit even a two story residential home and possibly even a single story home in some cases. It was felt by amending the measurement point it would still serve the original intent without reasonably affecting the intended use of the property or intent of the original initiative.

The current City Charter building height restriction measures the building height from the crown of the roadway elevation to the highest point of the coping of a flat roof, the deck line of a mansard roof, or the mean height level between eaves and ridge for hip, gable and gambrel roofs. This proposed Charter Amendment would measure the building height from the finished floor elevation of the building to the highest point of the roof.

BUILDING HEIGHT FLOOR ELEVATION

Should the City Charter be amended so that the building height is measured from the finished floor elevation of the building to the highest point of the roof?

_____ Yes. In favor of amending the Charter to measure building height from the finished floor elevation of the building to the highest point of the roof.

_____ No. Against amending the Charter to measure building height from the finished floor elevation of the building to the highest point of the roof.

BALLOT SUMMARY #2

DISCUSSION: This is just simply cleanup of the Charter to remove obsolete language from when the city transitioned to even year elections in 2008. The amendment would remove language that is referencing historical actions that have already occurred and have no influence on future actions.

The current City Charter contains procedures for transition to the even-numbered year election schedule as established by Florida law. As the City has completed its transition to the even-numbered year election schedule, the procedures are obsolete. This proposed Charter Amendment would remove the obsolete transition provisions.

REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS RELATED TO TRANSITION TO EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR ELECTION SCHEDULE

Should the City Charter be amended to remove the obsolete provisions related to transition to the even-numbered year election schedule?

_____ Yes. In favor of amending the Charter to remove the obsolete provisions related to transition to the even-numbered year election schedule.

_____ No. Against amending the Charter to remove the obsolete provisions related to transition to the even-numbered year election schedule.

BALLOT SUMMARY #3

DISCUSSION: The Charter Review Committee had staff compile research to assess where our City Council salary was in comparison to neighboring cities within the county. As the City of Edgewater is essentially a median community in relationship to size and complexity of the other neighboring communities, it was suggested that the salary also become a median salary. The intent of increasing the salary to the countywide average was also to ensure that we continue to attract qualified candidates that will lead the community into the future.

The current Charter sets annual compensation for council members at \$6,900.00 and the mayor at \$8,600.00 and authorizes the city council to adjust the annual salary for the mayor and council members by ordinance. This proposed Amendment would increase annual compensation for council members to \$9,974.00 and the mayor to \$13,365 and removes city council authority to adjust the annual salary for the mayor and council members by ordinance.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMPENSATION INCREASE AND REMOVAL OF COUNCIL AUTHORITY TO ADJUST COMPENSATION

Should the City Charter be amended to increase council and mayor compensation and remove council authority to adjust its compensation by ordinance?

_____ Yes. In favor of amending the Charter to increase council and mayor compensation and remove council authority to adjust its compensation by ordinance.

_____ No. Against amending the Charter to to increase council and mayor compensation and remove council authority to adjust its compensation by ordinance.

BALLOT SUMMARY #4

DISCUSSION: Presently the limitation on borrowing is determined by our current taxable value which has fluctuated 49% over the past 5 years. This makes it difficult to project what our short term debt capacity is year to year. The recommend change tags our total annual debt service at ten (10) percentage of our General Fund revenues, to include all revenue lines and not just the taxable value. This change will strengthen our long term financial outlook for issuing debt for the General Fund as our revenues have been stable over the past five (5) years. This charter amendment does not apply to Enterprise Funds.

The current Charter provides the City shall not incur additional debt of more than 0.75 percent of net taxable value during any forward moving five-year period unless approved by the voters. This proposed Amendment provides the City may issue General Fund Debt by majority vote of City Council provided the aggregate total amount of annual debt service does not exceed 10% of General Fund operating revenues unless such debt is approved by the voters.

CHARTER LIMITATIONS ON BORROWING

Should the City Charter limitations on borrowing be amended?

_____ Yes. In favor of amending the Charter limitations on borrowing.

_____ No. Against amending the Charter limitations on borrowing.

BALLOT SUMMARY #5

DISCUSSION: Presently there is no requirement for any operating fund other than the General Fund to maintain reserves. This Charter amendment would require all operating funds to maintain reserves at a minimum of fifteen (15) percent. This change will strengthen our long-term financial outlook across all operating funds. The amendment would also remove the 25 percent maximum allowing future City Councils to reserve greater than 25 percent in the reserves if they shall determine it is necessary for future strategic planning purposes.

The current City Charter requires the City to maintain reserves at a minimum of 15 percent with a maximum of 25 percent of the general fund. This proposed Charter Amendment would require the City to maintain reserves at a minimum of 15 percent of all operating funds.

ESTABLISHING RESERVES AT A MINIMUM OF 15 PERCENT OF ALL OPERATING FUNDS

Should the City Charter be amended to require the City to maintain reserves at a minimum of 15 percent of all operating funds?

- _____ Yes. In favor of amending the Charter to require the City to maintain reserves at a minimum of 15 percent of all operating funds.
- _____ No. Against amending the Charter to require the City to maintain reserves at a minimum of 15 percent of all operating funds.

BALLOT SUMMARY #6

DISCUSSION: This amendment would essentially add additional clarification for when a member of City Council would be required to forfeit office. The additional forfeiture requirements are based on convictions of criminal behavior.

The Charter provides for forfeiture of City Council office in certain enumerated situations. This Amendment would add forfeiture provisions for convictions, guilty or nolo contendere pleas to a crime punishable as a felony or a first degree misdemeanor arising directly out of official conduct or duties.

ADDITIONAL FORFEITURE OF OFFICE CHARTER PROVISIONS

Should the City Charter be amended to add the proposed provisions related to forfeiture of office?

- _____ Yes. In favor of amending the Charter provisions regarding forfeiture of office.
- _____ No. Against amending the Charter provisions regarding forfeiture of office.