

## Doug Weiss's Charter Amendment Assessment

What it says	What it means
<p><b>PROP. 1,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to change the structure of the City Council from six to seven members, allow the Mayor to vote on all matters and remove the preparation of City Council agendas from the Mayor's rights and responsibilities?</p>	<p>This proposition does three things. First, it adds an additional council seat which would be filled by a subsequent election. Second, it provides the mayor a vote on every item, the same as any other council member. Finally, it removes the mayor's power to set the agenda for council meetings, and delegates that power to the city manager.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 2,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to clarify that the Municipal Judge does not have to be a resident of the City?</p>	<p>Propositions 2 and 3 are opposing issues. If they both pass, then the one that receives the most votes will be enacted. If they both fail, then the current charter language, which is essentially the same as Prop. 2, remains in place. They are presented this way because the council did not agree with the item submitted by the charter review commission. Our current municipal judge is a resident of the city, but the charter does not currently mandate that (s)he be.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 3,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to require the Municipal Judge be a resident of the City?</p>	
<p><b>PROP. 4,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to change the Parks and Recreation Commission to a project specific advisory board which reports to the City Manager and provide for a process to appoint seven regular board members?</p>	<p>This proposition essentially disbands the Parks and Recreation Commission by removing the term of appointment and turns it into an "as needed" advisory board. The board will be appointed on a project basis with limited oversight responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 5,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the city council shall be required to terminate a city manager?</p>	<p>The charter requires 4 of the 5 council members to vote to hire the city manager, but it doesn't mention anything about firing him. In theory, he could be fired by a vote of two council members at a meeting where only three of them show up.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 6,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that a violation of the prohibition to interfere with the Administration by a City Council member be grounds for removal from office?</p>	<p>While the city charter contains rules and requirements for council members, it doesn't include an enforcement provision. No consequences are spelled out in the charter. That is, like the Constitution of the United States, it lists the rights and responsibilities, but no punishments. These three propositions add punishments in the event that a councilperson violates the charter.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 7,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to add as grounds for removal from office as a City Councilmember violation of the nepotism provision of the Charter?</p>	
<p><b>PROP. 8,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to specify a hearing process and procedure for removal from office as a City Council member?</p>	

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<p><b>PROP. 9,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to change the prohibition on holding other compensated appointive city office or employment to prohibit all other compensated and/or contracted services and extend the prohibition time period from one year to two years after the expiration of a term of office?</p>	<p>Currently, anyone who is elected to the council cannot be employed by the city in any capacity, and cannot be employed in an appointed position (head of a department or higher) for one year after they leave the council.</p> <p>This proposition is adding a restriction on doing any business with the city during that time, and extending the one-year restriction to a two-year restriction.</p> <p>For example, while serving on council, you couldn't also be a police officer, library assistant, or seasonal lifeguard with the city. After you leave the council, you could hold those jobs, but you couldn't head up the Public Works department or be hired as the Chief of Police until a year has passed, or two years, if this proposition passes.</p> <p>Another example, Let's say you own a business that does traffic studies or designs parks. Currently, you could bid on city contracts as much as you want. While it may appear improper for someone who sits on the council to win a contract for those services, it's not currently prohibited. This proposition prohibits any council member from working on any city contract for the duration of their term and two years afterwards.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 10,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to change the requirement of how often it meets with boards and commissions from "at least once a year" to an "as needed basis"?</p>	<p>This one is pretty self-explanatory. All boards and commissions are required to meet with the council once per year. This proposition removes that requirement.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 11,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to clarify its process whereby the City Council may approve an ordinance without the need to consider and vote to approve the ordinance at two separate meetings, as provided by the City Charter?</p>	<p>This proposition is really more of a clarification than a change. Some ordinances go into effect immediately after they're passed the first time, even though they do have to be read and passed a second time to remain in effect.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 12,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to clarify that an emergency ordinance can be considered for adoption, amendment, and rejection at the same meeting?</p>	<p>This proposition literally changes the word "or" to "and" when listing the types of actions the council can take on an emergency ordinance.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 13,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to require the City Manager to become a resident of the city within 180 days after appointment?</p>	<p>This change puts a specific time limit on the city manager moving into the city after being hired. The charter currently allows the council to set a "reasonable" time limit.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 14,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that Acting City Managers are appointed by the city manager rather than the City Council?</p>	<p>The "acting" city manager is the person assigned to perform the duties of the city manager while (s)he is sick, on vacation, or otherwise indisposed for a short period of time.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 15,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that the City Manager shall annually submit a five-year capital improvement plan to the city council at least one hundred and twenty days before the beginning of the budget year listing projects in order of preference and with a recommendation of the year of construction for each project?</p>	<p>Currently, the city manager is required to assist each board or commission in the preparation of the five-year plans on each of them must submit to council on the areas under their purview. This proposition requires the city manager to consolidate each individual plan into one overarching plan for all capital improvements.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 16,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to reduce the required number of petition signatures for initiatives, referendums and nonbinding referendums from 20% to 15% of qualified voters of the City?</p>	<p>These three propositions make petitions easier to manage while reducing the required number of signatures to force an item to an election.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 17,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to allow a signatory to a petition to provide their date of birth or their voter registration number?</p>	
<p><b>PROP. 18,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to extend the response time of the City Secretary to issue petition certificate copies from immediately to the next business day?</p>	

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<p><b>PROP. 19,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to change the powers of the planning commission to include zoning proposals in its recommendations to City Council; to revise meeting requirements; and to include parks, transportation and utilities in its five year capital improvement plan?</p>	<p>This proposition allows the Planning and Zoning Commission to make recommendations to council outside of specific zoning cases. It also removes the requirement that the commission meet at least once per month. Finally, it adds some topics to the five-year capital improvement plan, one of which (parks) is removed from a different commission by an earlier proposition.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 20,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to reduce the number of alternates for the zoning board of adjustment from four to two?</p>	<p>The Board of Adjustment is one of the most powerful boards appointed by the city council. They have quasi-judicial powers and can make decisions that even the city council cannot change. That being the case, not many issues make it all the way to them. Staff and the city council are generally willing to reach a solution without the need to send a case in front of this board.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 21,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to reduce the required number of meetings of the zoning board of adjustment from one each quarter to one annually?</p>	
<p><b>PROP. 22,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to require the City Manager to meet quarterly with the representatives of the police association regarding working conditions and compensation?</p>	<p>This proposition essentially requires the city manager to meet quarterly with representatives from the police officers' union, or whatever group represents the majority of our police officers.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 23,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to change the Charter Review Commission to hold a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) meetings, two (2) of which shall be held jointly with the City Council?</p>	<p>The Charter Review Commission is already required to hold a minimum of six meetings, and has the power to require the attendance of any city officer. All this adds is a requirement to meet jointly with the city council twice.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 24,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville strike portions of its Charter due to repetitiveness with Texas law regarding general powers of the city; eminent domain; zoning; actions which require an ordinance; and city elections?</p>	<p>These five propositions are simply cleaning up the charter to conform with state law.</p>
<p><b>PROP. 25,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to allow for annexation and disannexation consistent with Texas law?</p>	
<p><b>PROP. 26,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide a process for filling a vacancy on the City Council consistent with the Texas Constitution?</p>	
<p><b>PROP. 27,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that the City Council determines by resolution the uniform election date for city elections instead of on a date closest to the second Saturday in May as allowed by Texas law?</p>	
<p><b>PROP. 28,</b> Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to be consistent with Texas law as to who may request alternates to attend a zoning board of adjustment meeting?</p>	