

# WHAT IS THE CITY CHARTER?



The City Charter is like the constitution of the City; it establishes the general powers, duties and administrative structure of the City. The Charter cannot be changed by the City Council but only by a majority vote of the qualified voters who live within the city limits of the City of Navasota. The City of Navasota Charter was last amended in 2007.

**NAVASOTA!**  
So much, so close.

# CITY CHARTER ELECTION

Propositions A through BB

May 4, 2024



## CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Last fall, the City Council appointed a Charter Review Committee made up of 5 residents. The charge of this committee was to review the City Charter. After a series of meetings, the committee forwarded proposed amendments to the City Council to consider for a City Charter Election.

## ABOUT THE BALLOT

28 proposed amendments to the City Charter will be listed on the ballot as Propositions A through BB.

Voters will have the option to vote "for" or "against" each proposition. State law does not allow for the amendments to be consolidated into fewer propositions.

## KEY ELECTION DATES



- Early Voting, April 22–April 30
- Election Day, Saturday, May 4

**It's important to vote the entire ballot.**



# ABOUT THE PROPOSITIONS

- The 2024 Charter Review Report as accepted by City Council can be viewed online at [www.navasotatx.gov](http://www.navasotatx.gov).
- Many of the propositions are to simply clean up confusing language or update antiquated policies and practices, bringing the Charter up to date with state law.

## PROPOSITION A

- Provides that all affected Articles and Sections of the Navasota City Charter be amended by making corrections to grammar, spelling and punctuation errors; as well as deleting redundant and outdated wording. Also makes non-substantive vocabulary changes to use modern and consistent terminology and calls to delete reserved sections; and renumber affected Articles and Sections due to deletions.

## PROPOSITION B

- Provides that the Charter be amended by updating and correcting references to current state laws, deleting provisions of the Charter that are inconsistent with current law or are preempted by current law, and deleting references to obsolete laws.

## PROPOSITION C

- Revises the authority, procedures and timelines for annexation of territory to be consistent with applicable state law and clarifies the authority and procedures for the disannexation of territory from the City limits.

## PROPOSITION D

- Updates the Charter by deleting all provisions concerning platting of real property as unnecessary due to existing state laws.

## PROPOSITION E

- Deletes the provisions creating the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission as unnecessary due to existing state laws.

## PROPOSITION F

- Deletes the provisions stating that members of the City Council are to be compensated as provided in the Charter, due to its conflict with Article IV, Section 15 of the Charter stating that the members of the City Council serve without compensation.

## PROPOSITION G

- Requires a filing fee in the amount of \$100.00 to be a candidate for City Council; providing for a process for submitting a petition to the City Secretary with a sufficient number of signatures as an alternative to paying the \$100.00 filing fee; and providing for the review of the validity of such a petition and the accompanying signatures supporting the petition.

## PROPOSITION H

- Provides that the regular general election of City Council members shall be held each year on the first Saturday of May.

## PROPOSITION I

- Updates the terms of office of the members of the City Council from two (2) years to three (3) years.

## PROPOSITION J

- Provides that vacancies on the City Council shall be filled by a special election to be held within 120 days of the vacancy unless the vacancy occurs not more than 120 days prior to the next regular election, in which case the vacancy shall be filled at a special election to be held on the same date as the next regular election. If the remaining unexpired term of any vacant City Council position is 12 months or less, the vacant City Council position, after public notice of the vacancy and the opportunity for qualified persons to submit applications requesting appointment to the vacancy, shall be filled by appointment by the remaining City Council members. The then appointed City Council member shall serve for the unexpired term of the vacant council position to which the person was appointed.

## PROPOSITION K

- Updated to clarify that an individual City Council member may be removed for knowingly permitting any provision of the Charter to be violated without exercising the City Council member's power to prevent the violation.

## PROPOSITION L

- Authorizes the City Council to adopt rules of ethics governing the conduct of City Council members.

## PROPOSITION M

- Establishes the duties of the City Secretary defined as, in addition to performing duties required by the Charter and the City Council, the City Secretary shall perform duties as may be required by applicable law, city ordinances and resolutions, or the City Manager.

## PROPOSITION N

- Amends that an ordinance may be enacted finally on the date that it is introduced, read, voted upon and passed at one meeting of the City Council rather than two meetings.

## PROPOSITION O

- Clarifies that the City Manager, as Chief Administrative Officer, is authorized to determine the salaries and wages of all employees of the City.

## PROPOSITION P

- Provides that the City Manager may be removed by a vote of four (4) members of the City Council rather than a simple majority.

## PROPOSITION Q

- Provides that the City Manager shall establish residence within the city limits of the City within a reasonably prompt period of time after employment.

## PROPOSITION R

- Provides that the City Manager is authorized to appoint and remove one or more Assistant City Managers.

## PROPOSITION S

- Provides that a delinquent tax policy adopted by the City Council shall be subject to the provisions of state law allowing the tax assessor/collector to adopt a policy accepting partial payments of property taxes.

## PROPOSITION T

- Provides that the Municipal Court Judge shall not serve in any other elected public office except as allowed by applicable law.

## PROPOSITION U

- Deletes the provisions authorizing the Grimes County Attorney to prosecute cases in Navasota Municipal Court as state law provides that the County Attorney has no power or privilege within the Municipal Court.

## PROPOSITION V

- Provides that the City's proposed budget shall be posted on the City's website at least 72 hours prior to any meetings at which the proposed budget will be discussed by City Council members.

## PROPOSITION W

- Calls for the City's financial accounts to be kept in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and the standards adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board applicable to cities.

## PROPOSITION X

- Deletes the provisions authorizing the City Manager to publish monthly financial reports in a newspaper.

## PROPOSITION Y

- Deletes the provisions addressing the temporary borrowing authority of the City through deficiency warrants as this type of debt instrument is outdated and unnecessary due to other borrowing authority being provided for in state law.

# PROPOSITION Z

- Provides that all ordinances granting, renewing or extending franchises for public utilities shall be read at two (2) rather than three (3), separate regular meetings of the City Council.

# PROPOSITION AA

- Requires that a sinking fund or other monetary funds of the City shall only be invested or reinvested in compliance with applicable law and the City's investment policy.

# PROPOSITION BB

- Calls for Article XI, Sections 1 and 2 be deleted as unnecessary and redundant due to the municipal election provisions set forth in Article IV of the Charter.

## VOTING HOURS



### EARLY VOTING

- Monday - Friday, April 22 - April 30  
8AM to 5PM

### ELECTION DAY

- Saturday, May 4, 2024  
7AM to 7PM

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Charter Election questions may be directed to the City Secretary's Office at:

(936) 825-6408

[shomeyer@navasotatx.gov](mailto:shomeyer@navasotatx.gov)

[Navasota City Hall](#)

200 E. McAlpine Street  
Navasota, TX 77868

## VOTING LOCATION

Navasota Center

101 Stadium Drive, Navasota, TX 77868



**VOTE THE  
ENTIRE BALLOT.**

**A to BB**

**WWW.NAVASOTATX.GOV**