

Question E:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 2.11, be amended to require a mayor or city council member to immediately forfeit his/her office upon filing as a candidate in any election except one under this charter?

Committee description of Question E

Currently, members forfeit their positions when they file to run for any council position if their current term extends beyond election day. This would require resignation to run for any position except a council/mayoral seat.

Question F:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 2.08, be amended to allow for digital scanning, indexing and storage of ordinances and other actions by the city council?

Committee description of Question F

The current charter requires use of an indexed ordinance book. This change would modernize the process by allowing filing by electronic scanning and storage.

Question G:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 5.23, be amended to remove the provision that allows the city manager to sell notes at a private sale without advertisement?

Committee description of Question G

This section has no practical purpose today given modern fiduciary responsibilities and practices.

Question H:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 5.17, be amended to allow the city council to approve other ways to advertise the sale of city property besides in a local newspaper?

Committee description of Question H

This change would broaden the City's ability to advertise for sale of unused property.

Question I:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 5.21, be amended to expand the list of instruments requiring the signatures of both the city manager and the mayor to include "remittances"?

Committee description of Question I

This change strengthens the City's money-handling policy by expanding the list of cash transfers requiring dual signatures.

Question J:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 3.01, be amended to authorize the city council to set the compensation of the city manager?

Committee description of the proposed change

Although implied in other provisions of the charter, this change clarifies that the city council sets the compensation for the city manager.

For more information about the proposed charter amendments, visit PortlandTX.com.

ELECTION DAY	
Saturday, May 5, 2018 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	
VOTING LOCATION	
Portland Community Center 2000 Billy G. Webb Drive	
EARLY VOTING	
Monday, April 23	7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 24	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 25	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 26	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 27	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 30	7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 1	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**CITY OF PORTLAND, TEXAS
CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION**

MAY 5, 2018

(Early voting starts April 23)



**PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS
TO THE
PORTLAND
CITY CHARTER**



WHY AMEND THE CITY CHARTER?

Much like the U.S. Constitution provides the structure for the governance of the country, a city charter determines the framework for how a city operates. Although all city governments are subject to an abundance of federal and state laws, the city charter remains the single most important document for a home rule city.

Cities amend their charters from time to time as conditions within a city change, to make corrections to the charter, or to update provisions because procedures have changed, or a law or regulation has changed. Periodic reviews and revisions to a city charter ensure that residents are better served by city government.

On May 5, 2018, Portland residents will be asked to consider proposed amendments to the Portland City Charter.

CHARTER AMENDMENT PROCESS

In November 2016, the Portland City Council appointed a Charter Review Committee consisting of council members Cathy Skurow and John Green, former mayor Dick Moser, former city council member David Lewis, and citizen Jerry Browning, Jr. The committee conducted six public meetings in 2017 and made their final report to the City Council on Jan. 23, 2018. The final report recommended changes that would be contained in 10 ballot questions.

On February 6, 2018, the Portland City Council passed Resolution 746 calling for a Special Election on May 5, 2018, on the proposed amendments.

THE BALLOT QUESTIONS

Question A:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter be amended to add a provision to Article IX (General Provisions) that the charter is to be gender-neutral and amended throughout to make the charter language gender-neutral; to correct non-substantive errors such as misspellings, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure; to make non-substantive changes to clarify the meaning of various charter provisions and documented in a proposed City Charter on file with the City Secretary; to conform to requirements and/or provisions of current state law and/or federal law; and to remove charter language that is obsolete?

Committee description of Question A

If passed, this amendment would result in removal of approximately 79 gender references. It would make 41 non-substantive changes to clarify meanings, conform to current laws, and remove obsolete sections and language.

Question B:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter Section 2.02, be amended to set compensation for city council members at \$25 per meeting and the mayor at \$50 per meeting with an annual adjustment each September 30th based on changes to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), but not more than 5% in any one year?

Committee description of Question B

Council members currently receive \$10 per meeting. The mayor receives \$20 per meeting. The current compensation rates were last set in April 1970.

(The table in the next column shows how this proposal compares with other cities in the area and the state.)

City	Council/Mayor Compensation
Portland	\$25/\$50 per meeting (proposed)
Corpus Christi	\$6,000/\$9,000 per year
Ingleside	\$25 per meeting; \$50 per month max
Aransas Pass	\$1.00 per year
Alice	\$50/\$100 per month
Robstown	\$1,200/\$1,800 per year
Kingsville	\$25/\$50 per meeting
Victoria	Determined by City Council
Seguin	Determined by City Council
Schertz	Determined by City Council
Rosenberg	\$200-\$300 per month
Sachse	Determined by City Council

Question C:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 2.04, be amended to clarify that when a mayor or council member ceases to reside inside the city limits of Portland the person's elected position immediately becomes vacant?

Committee description of Question C

Current provision requires residency upon election and states that members must continue to possess qualifications. This change would clarify the requirement that, once elected, the person must remain a resident of Portland.

Question D:

Shall the Portland, Texas City Charter, Section 2.06, be amended to clarify that a quorum of a simple majority of the city council is needed to take action during a regular city council meeting?

Committee description of Question D

This change would clarify that a quorum is required to conduct business. Currently, the charter requires a simple majority of the "members of council." When less than all seven members are present, "members of council" could be interpreted to mean that a simple majority of the entire seven members is still required. Quorum has a universal meaning that would avoid misinterpretation.

