

Charter Amendment to Sections 37 and 56

Actual Ballot Language:

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO REMOVE TERM LIMITS FOR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

Shall Sections 37, and 56, of the Southgate City Charter be amended to eliminate term limits for the offices of Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and City Council?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Proposed Changes to the Charter if Amendment is Approved

Sec. 37 City Council; composition; term of office; compensation.

“The City Council shall consist of seven Councilmen who shall be elected from the City at large and shall serve for a term of four years or until their successors have been elected and qualified, commencing on the 18th day of November, 1975, and on the fourteenth day after their respective elections at each biennial City general election thereafter. ~~Council members shall be prohibited from seeking re-election after having served three (3) consecutive four year terms in that particular office.~~ Each member of the Council shall receive an annual salary of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) payable monthly and the Council President shall receive an annual salary of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) payable monthly. This shall be in lieu of all services.

Sec. 56 Administrative officers enumerated.

“(b) The Mayor, City Clerk and City Treasurer shall be selected by election from the City at large for a term of four years commencing the 18th day of November, 1975, and on the fourteenth day after their respective elections at the general City election each two years thereafter. ~~The Mayor, City Clerk and Treasurer shall be prohibited from seeking re-election after having served three (3) consecutive four year terms in this particular office.”~~

FAQs

What is a charter amendment?

A Charter Amendment is a revision to the City Charter. The City Charter is the foundational document that establishes how the City of Southgate is organized and governed. It outlines the powers and responsibilities of the City, its elected officials, and its various offices and departments.

In simple terms, a Charter Amendment allows residents to vote on whether a specific provision of the City's governing document should be changed.

What happens if the measure passes

If voters approve the amendment, the term limits for the offices of Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and City Council will be removed from the City Charter.

The amendment does not automatically extend anyone's current term of office. The voters will then decide who stays in office through regularly scheduled elections.

Will the length of an elected official's term remain the same?

Yes. Each term remains four years.

Does the amendment guarantee that someone can stay in office?

Removing the term limit does not guarantee re-election. Voters continue to choose who serves in each elected office through regularly scheduled elections.

What Does This Mean for Me?

Currently, term limits prevent elected officials from seeking re-election after serving three consecutive terms. This limits the potential candidates available to voters.

The proposed amendment would remove that limit. An elected official could run for an additional term, allowing voters to consider that candidate along with any other qualified candidates.

Voters would continue to decide who serves in these offices through regular elections. The amendment would be cost neutral and would not change the term length of an office or how elections are conducted.

What is the History of Term Limits in Southgate?

Term limits have not always existed in Southgate. When the City was founded in 1958, the City Charter did not include term limits for elected officials. The Charter language remained the same until 1995 when term limits were first adopted. Term limits were modified to the current language in 2016.