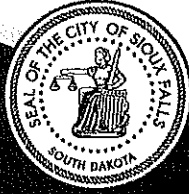


City of  
*Sioux Falls*



## Charter Revision Commission

Providing a Better Quality of Life for You!

224 West Ninth Street, P.O. Box 7402, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7402  
www.siouxfalls.org

605-367-8880 • FAX 605-367-7330  
TTY/Hearing Impaired 605-367-7039

January 28, 2014

Sioux Falls City Council  
235 W. Tenth St.  
P.O. Box 7402  
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7402

RE: Charter Revision Commission Summary Report

Dear City Council:

On behalf of the Charter Revision Commission, enclosed please find a Report dated January 23, 2014 concerning the Fifth Charter Revision Commission's three ballot proposals and meetings since October, 2012. The Official Ballot has also been delivered to the City Clerk. Thank you.

Sincerely,

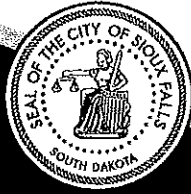
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Pfeifle".

David A. Pfeifle  
City Attorney  
Legal Advisor to Charter Revision Commission

Enclosure

cc: Charter Revision Commission Members

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*Sioux Falls*



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**Date:** January 23, 2014

**Contact:** Sioux Falls City Attorney's Office, or  
[charterrevisioncomments@siouxfalls.org](mailto:charterrevisioncomments@siouxfalls.org)

**Phone:** (605) 367-8880

### ***CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION SUMMARY REPORT PRIOR TO APRIL 8, 2014 BALLOT PROPOSALS***

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota:** Since October 2012, the Sioux Falls Charter Revision Commission ("Commission") has conducted a series of four public work sessions and an additional five public meetings to assist them in preparing a report of proposed revisions to the City's Charter. The Commission is prepared to deliver the proposed revisions to City election authorities for placement on the upcoming April 8, 2014 ballot.

During the course of their four public work sessions, the Commission reviewed and discussed each section of the City Charter. The agenda for each work session alerted the public which particular sections would be discussed for that meeting. The Commission also invited guests to explain the workings of the Charter provisions under review. Current Charter sections were also compared to other versions of the Model City Charter as promulgated by the National Civic League, from which the City Charter is based. The historical significance of various sections was also discussed. Possible Charter revision proposals were discussed with City departments, City Council members, Commission

members and citizens. After extensive review and discussion, eleven areas were identified for potential proposals. These eleven areas were then discussed and/or debated during five subsequent public meetings conducted by the Commission in 2013 and 2014. After further discussion, the Commission determined that many of these areas did not warrant any proposals. The Commission affirmatively voted to advance three proposed measures which, following delivery and filing with the City Council and City Clerk, will be presented to city voters in the form of Charter Amendments for their consideration in the upcoming election.

Two related proposals address the date when terms of office begin for the Mayor and other City Council members. The current Charter provisions set the start date as the third Monday of May following an April municipal election. The proposals would allow flexibility for which day of that third week the terms would begin. The terms of each office would coincide with the day of that third week in May when the City Council holds its regularly-scheduled meeting.

The third proposed amendment addresses the appointment and termination of the City's legal officer. The proposal would clarify how many Council members must vote to consent to the Mayor's appointment of the legal officer of the City. In addition, the proposal would require that a majority of the City Council members consent to the

Mayor's decision to remove the City Attorney during a Mayor's four-year term. Currently, the Mayor has the sole authority to remove the City Attorney at any time; although the City Attorney has responsibility to the Mayor and the City Council.

City voters have previously approved revisions to the City Charter in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2010, and 2012. The City's Charter is the broad governing document for the conduct of local municipal government in Sioux Falls.

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