

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF MEMO**

Agenda Date: 10/3/11

SUBJECT: Charter Review Committee Review of election provisions for local elected officials, including provisions for election of mayor and vice mayor

MEMO BY: Beth Pollard, City Manager

The City's Charter Review Committee (CRC) is proposing to review options for electing local officials. Attached is a memo from the CRC outlining the scope of work they propose to undertake.

As the memo states, the CRC proposes that the first step in the planned review process is to develop criteria for judging potential election methods for Albany. The next step is describing potential election methods. The final step is to assess the potential methods relative to the criteria.

Among the election method options that have emerged in other municipalities and school districts are ranked choice voting --also known as instant runoff voting, cumulative voting, and district elections.

At the September 6 Council meeting, Mayor Javandel announced he would be placing the CRC's proposal for review on the September 19th agenda to provide guidance and a timeline to CRC for preparing recommendations to Council. Councilmember Lieber has suggested this review could include methods for using the public's election of Council members as a mechanism for selection of Mayor and Vice Mayor.

There was a Council Member inquiry about whether and/or how any changes in the City Charter on election methods could or would apply to the Albany Unified School District. The CRC also conveyed its memo to the School District to seek its comments on the review. The Board of Education will have an item on this subject its September 20th agenda.

The deadline for submission of a ballot measure for the November 2012 Municipal election is early August, 2012. Staff recommends that the CRC return to Council with any review information by April 2012 to provide sufficient opportunity for Council to determine whether it wishes to propose any charter change to the voters at the November election.

Attachment: Memo from CRC, August 29, 2011

