

Thank you for the comments and inquiries Ms. McQuaid.

[election method review mission statement]

Changing election methods, should Albany decide to do so, could cost money in terms of staff time, placing a measure on the ballot, implementing the new method, and educating voters about the method. The costs to implement a new method and educate voters about that method are too dependent upon the particulars of the method to make any meaningful statement at this time. Cost is one of five criteria the Charter Review Committee has chosen to review potential methods in the next month or two. This review will result in a report with cost information. The Committee will post a comment here when the report is available.

This leaves the cost of a ballot measure. The Alameda County Registrar charges Albany a set fee per voter to administer an election no matter the number of local races and measures on the ballot. Consequently if a charter amendment should be needed, there would be no charge from the Registrar if the measure was placed on the ballot during an election with other Albany issues, such as the general municipal election in even years numbered years when the City Council and Board of Education are elected.

Albany does pay a separate charge for printing the ballot statements, and this charge does scale with the size of the statement. However information from the City indicates this incremental cost is "[very minor](#)." Even the minimal cost of a charter amendment is not necessarily required though. Albany's Charter allows the method of electing the Council to be defined by ordinance, which does not require a public vote. The Charter does not provide this option for changing the method of electing the Board of Education, though, so that would require the minimal cost of a charter amendment.