



**MINUTES  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue

Thursday, May 15, 2014 – 7:30-9:00 p.m.

\*NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE DUE TO HOLIDAY

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Baty, Eckert, Jordan, O'Keefe, Schneider

Members Absent: None.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-1.** March 24, 2014

Minutes approved unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Jordan announced that he invited School Board Members to the Committee meeting to discuss the request by the Board of Education regarding elimination of term limits.

Jordan announced that Eckert connected Jordan with faculty at Albany High School and he will be working with the Albany High School government classes to conduct a mock election utilizing Ranked Choice Voting.

Jordan announced that he attended a League of Women Voters discussion regarding Ranked Choice Voting and talked with Alameda County Registrar of Voters.

**6. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**6-1.** Finalize review of election methods report and associated documents to forward to the City Council:

- a. Receive information from staff inquiry to Registrar of Voters regarding Ranked Choice Voting and At Large Ranked Choice Voting capabilities

Almaguer reported that she discussed Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and At-Large RCV with the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to identify suitability and practicality for Albany. Per the ROV:

- RCV is primarily utilized by municipalities that have had costly run-off elections
- RCV is currently used for 1-seat races in cities with Districts, not at-large
- The cities using the current RCV system collaborated to reduce overall expense to a single municipality
- Currently, an At-Large RCV does not exist
- All RCV administration is done in-house by ROV, there is not the opportunity to outsource
- RCV requires a significant amount of outreach & training effort
- There are significant cost considerations including administration, software & voter outreach
- The Secretary of State would need to approve any proposed algorithm change

Jordan reported that he had a discussion with the ROV at a recent League of Women Voters event, and that the ROV indicated the County will be seeking new RCV election equipment in the next several years. Jordan also reported that the ROV indicated a separate entity may be allowed to conduct the vote tally.

The Committee requested these reports be provided in writing to the Committee.

- b. Review final draft report appendix regarding review of election methods (Jordan)

The Committee provided additional edits to Jordan to incorporate into report appendix. O'Keefe requested table on page 9 be removed as the data is stale. Eckert requested the table be modified to denote RCV voting method comparison.

Jordan moved that the table remain in the report appendix, with modifications noted by Eckert. Seconded by Baty.

In Favor: Baty, Jordan, Schneider. Opposed: Eckert, O'Keefe.  
Motion carries.

The Committee will continue review of this item to the next meeting.

- c. Review consolidated responses to questions raised by City Council Member Thomsen  
This item was not discussed by the Committee.

**6-2.** Resolution recommending development of a Draft Charter Amendment regarding a Transition to Use of Ranked Choice Voting at Large

- a. Discuss procedures for submitting items to the City Council  
This item was not discussed by the Committee.

**6-3.** Albany Unified School District Board of Education request to eliminate Term Limits

- a. Review request from the AUSD BOE as received by the City Council and referred to the Committee
- b. Begin identifying process for developing pro/con analysis of potential impacts on the City Charter and possible language for Charter Amendment to present to the City Council

Almaguer reported that the City Council referred the item as received by the Council from the Board of Education to the Charter Review Committee to develop pro/con analysis of potential impacts on the City Charter. Should the Committee choose, development of possible language for a Charter Amendment could also be prepared.

The Committee received information from Board of Education Members Pat Low and Paul Black regarding the Board's interest in eliminating term limits as longevity on the Board provides for continuity and helps sustain a well functioning District overall, and that the Board Member position is a position that requires technical expertise. If the Board were to be removed from the City Charter, the Board would effectively be dissolved and the County Superintendent would be required to appoint Members to the Board. The Board would then be governed by State Education Code regulations.

The Committee asked the representatives from the Board questions about the item including: whether they had any background information for why term limits were originally introduced; why there is an issue with the current term limits that allow people to serve two consecutive 4-year terms with a 2 year break and then eligible to be elected again; whether there is an amount of time that is too long for a person to serve on the Board; why the Board did not request removal from the Charter; and timing for response to the request.

Board Members commented that term limits raise issues with consistency of Board Members; the amount of time a person serves is variable and depends on the person; eliminating term limits seemed less complex as compared to removing the Board from the Charter; the timing for response is not urgent and not intended for the November 2014 election.

The Committee discussed process for moving forward with the request and agreed to review the Charter to identify whether there are any issues related to the potential removal of term limits for the Board of Education Members. The Committee also requested Almaguer confer with the City Attorney to determine whether striking Section 6.02 – Limitation of Terms from the Charter would suffice or if additional language would be necessary to clarify the possible Charter Amendment.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.