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Gainesville Launches Charter Review Process, Voters Have Final Say

Gainesville, Texas— The City Charter serves as Gainesville’s governing document, outlining the structure of city government, the powers and duties of elected officials, and key operational provisions. Periodic review of the Charter allows the city to evaluate whether its language is clear, current, and aligned with applicable law. The last charter review occurred in 1996.

City Council formally launched the City of Gainesville’s Charter Review process by approving a resolution on January 6 to appoint a Charter Commission to review the City Charter and consider potential amendments for voter consideration.

“This is an important opportunity for our community to take a thoughtful look at the City Charter and ensure it serves today’s Gainesville well,” said Mayor Tommy Moore. “The process is open, transparent, and ultimately places decision-making authority in the hands of the community. It’s driven by those we serve, as it should be.”

The appointed Charter Commission is responsible for reviewing the Charter article by article, holding public meetings, and developing recommendations for City Council to consider. Council may place proposed Charter amendments on a future election ballot; however, no changes to the Charter take effect unless approved by voters.

Ward 2 City Council Representative Dakota Nichols emphasized the importance of public understanding throughout the process. “This review is about education and transparency,” Nichols says. “Residents are encouraged to follow along, attend meetings, and learn more about how the Charter works and how any proposed amendments could affect the City.”



City Council is still deciding who to appoint to the Charter Review Commission. Each council member may fill up to two spots. The Charter Review Commission will be composed of individuals from across Gainesville, bringing a range of expertise and perspectives to the process. Over the coming months, the Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of the City's Charter and identify opportunities for improvement, including potential amendments.

“This Charter review is a chance for our community to reflect, learn, and ask whether our governing document truly represents who we are today and where we want to go,” said Charter Review Commission Member Angel Gonzalez. “Being part of this process as a young adult allows me to emphasize to my peers that the decisions we make now shape Gainesville now and for the future. That responsibility matters.”

Charter Commission meetings will be open to the public, and updates will be posted on the City's website at gainesville.tx.us/1166/Charter-Review-Information. Meeting dates and times will also be posted on the webpage.

Customer Resources

If you have questions or need assistance understanding your bill, please reach out:

- Ongoing Project Updates:
 - Webpage: gainesville.tx.us/1166/Charter-Review-Information
 - Social Media: @CityOfGainesvilleTX on Facebook and Instagram
- Call: 940-668-4500
- Visit: City Hall, 200 S Rusk St, Gainesville, TX 76240
- Email: CityOfGainesville@cogtx.org

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