

GET THE FACTS: What we have now and what the proposed Charter amendment will do

This document was prepared by the Charter Revision Commission for the Get the Facts Voter Information Series October 2006

	Current city government	Proposed amendment	Why?
Department Heads	Elected part-time department heads (4 Commissioners and 1 Mayor) with equal power	Full-time appointed department heads nominated by the Mayor with approval of the City Council	Currently each city department is run by a separate elected official. The Commission believes having all departments working together under one leader will be more effective
Department Management	Departments are managed by full time deputies appointed by the elected department heads without external oversight	Departments managed by full-time directors nominated by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council	The Commission believes there should be Council oversight of appointments to manage city departments
City Council	Made up of the 5 elected department heads, who manage city departments as well as serve as the City Council	Independent legislature made up of 5 Council Members and 2 City Supervisors (7 total) with no executive management responsibilities	The Commission believes that an independent city council will better represent citizens and provide needed oversight of city operations
Supervisors	Represent the city at the County Board of Supervisors, but are not involved in city operations	Represent the City at the County Board of Supervisors and be members of the City Council	Currently municipalities are represented by Town Supervisors, who manage their towns, and City Supervisors, who are uninvolved in city operations. The Commission believes that having City Supervisors be voting members of the City Council will enhance their ability to represent the city
Mayor Veto/ Council Override	Under state law, Mayor can veto local laws; Council can override by a 2/3 vote	Mayor can veto both local laws and ordinances; Council can override by a 2/3 vote	The Commission believes the Mayor's veto power should be the same for local laws and ordinances and that the Council's override power is an essential check and balance
Budget	Departments prepare their own budgets, Department of Finance integrates them, and the department heads, as the Council, approves the final budget	Mayor submits one budget for all departments; independent Council amends and approves the budget	The Commission believes the Mayor should be responsible for proposing one budget that balances the needs of the various city departments

Call the Charter Revision Commission at 225-4061 if you have more questions.

Remember to LOOK UP and VOTE on November 7. The ballot question is at the top of the ballot. Every vote counts.