

# ISSUE 8

Charter Amendment  
City Officeholders

OFFICIAL  
QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT  
GENERAL ELECTION  
FRANKLIN, DELAWARE AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES, OHIO  
NOVEMBER 4, 2014

**Proposed Charter Amendment**

**City of Columbus**

**Amendment No. 3 – City Officeholders**

**(Submitted by City Council based on recommendations of the 2014 Columbus Charter Review Commission)**

**A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.**

The Amendment proposed by Ordinance No. 1749-2014 would amend sections 3-6, 8-11, 13-19, 31, 33-34, 58, 64, 66-67, 78-79, 87, and 227, repeal sections 7, 12, 59, and 145, and enact new sections 5.1-.2, 9.1-.3, 10.1-.2, 11.1-.2, 15.1-.5, 64.1-.3, 78.1-.2, 87.1-.2 and 239-240 of the Columbus City Charter to, including, but not limited to:

- Apply to city officers and employees state laws that prohibit unlawful interest in public contracts, theft in office, improper compensation, bribery and other provisions; and require loss of office or employment for violations, in addition to any state penalty.
- Provide that records of the city be made available to the public in accordance with state law.
- Provide that public bodies of the city hold open meetings in accordance with state law if members are appointed by a city officer and it is established for the sole purpose of advising any city officer or decision making body.
- Establish a citizens' commission on elected official compensation to recommend, every four years, the salary for city elective officeholders; prohibit council from setting salaries higher than commission recommendations; provide that the commission's recommendations include an annual cost of living adjustment which does not exceed the 4-year average increase in the consumer price index; provide that the 5 commission members be Columbus residents and cannot hold office or employment with the city or be paid.
- Provide that special and emergency meetings of council may be called in accordance with state law or ordinance; special and standing council committees, and rules therefore, may be established by council; council may expel or punish members for specified acts; the council president establishes meeting agendas and appoints committee chairs and members; a new council president be elected if the office is

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vacated; establish the office of council president pro tempore; allow a vote for acting president pro tempore in the absence of both president and president pro tempore; allow council to appoint a person to conduct investigations; repeal a provision for council to appoint a public defender for indigent persons charged with offenses in the municipal court; and prohibit council appointment of officers and employees except as provided in the charter.

- Require the following be maintained as a permanent electronic public record: council and committee minutes, council's journal, ordinances and resolutions adopted by council, and the city bulletin.
- Provide ordinances may be introduced in electronic or digital form.
- Consolidate duties of the city clerk and repeal the bureau of information and publicity in the city clerk's office and place duties with the clerk.
- Provide an elective officeholder may file a declaration of temporary inability to discharge the duties of the office and such period may not exceed 6 months; and provide if the officeholder is unable to discharge the duties of the office for 90 consecutive days and did not have a declaration of temporary inability in effect, the office shall be forfeited and the appropriate official shall seek a court action in quo warranto to vacate the office; and provide for filling a vacancy in office resulting from ceasing to hold any qualification for office and consistent language for creation of vacancies.
- Provide the city attorney may appoint a deputy who shall have the power to perform the city attorney's duties.
- Require council to adopt an ordinance regarding prohibited uses of public funds.
- Provide consistent language that elective officeholders must reside in Columbus, and may not hold any public office other than notary public, state militia or US Armed Forces Reserves.

Shall the proposed Amendment to the Columbus City Charter be adopted?

**YES**

**NO**