

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF KELSO AND TRANSMISSION TO THE COWLITZ COUNTY AUDITOR FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2016, A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT RELATED TO COUNCILMEMBER AND COUNCIL CANDIDATE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS.

WHEREAS, based on concerns raised by councilmembers in prior years related to the City's Charter, the City Council formed a Charter Review Committee in April 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee met on April 26, May 2, May 16, May 23, and June 13, 2016 to take public comment and consider changes to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, at a special meeting of the City Council on June 28, 2016, the Charter Review Committee made its recommendations to amend the City Charter to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2016, the City Council considered the Charter Review Committee's recommendations to amend the City Charter and took public comment on the proposed changes and determined to submit four (4) ballot propositions to the voters of the City of Kelso; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the purposes of the original City Charter amendment concerning the creation of city districts and the operation of the district residency requirements to limit the candidate pool for councilmembers, the Charter Review Committee and the City Council recommended this Charter Amendment removing the councilmember district residency requirements.; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2016, the Council by a majority vote determined it advisable and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Kelso to submit this resolution concerning councilmember district residency requirements;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO DO HEREBY RESOLVE:

Section 1. Proposition No. 1 Concerning Councilmember District Residency

Requirements. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City of Kelso at a General Election to be held on Tuesday the 8th day of November 2016, for their approval or rejection a ballot proposition to amend Charter Sections 2.02(a), 2.02(b), 2.06(a), and 2.06(c) as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Upon approval of the voters of the proposition hereinafter set forth, the Charter shall be amended as proposed.

The Cowlitz County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, is hereby requested to call and conduct such election and to submit to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection, the proposed Charter amendments as set forth in Exhibit A. The City Clerk shall cause the proposed City Charter amendments to be published in the City's newspaper of record in the manner provided by law, and is further authorized and directed to certify the following proposition to the Cowlitz County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, in substantially the following form:

CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON

PROPOSITION NO. 1

**CHARTER AMENDMENT CONCERNING
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT RESIDENCY
REQUIREMENTS**

The Kelso City Council adopted Resolution ___ concerning City Charter amendments related to geographic districts and councilmember district residency requirements. If approved, this proposition would amend Charter Sections 2.02(a)-(b), 2.06(a), and 2.06(c) by eliminating provisions related to the creation of geographic districts, district residency requirements to hold office and councilmember vacancies and appointments resulting from district residency. If approved, candidates and councilmembers for each council position may reside anywhere within the City.

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED? _____

REJECTED? _____

Section 2. Minor Adjustments. The City Manager and City Attorney are authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of such proposition as may be recommended by the Cowlitz County Elections as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Resolution as approved by the City Council.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution will take effect from and after its adoption as provided by law.

ADOPTED by the City Council and **SIGNED** by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2016.

MAYOR

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATION:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT A

II. Text Amendment

2.02 Composition, Eligibility, Election and Terms.

(a) Composition. There shall be a city council composed of seven members to be elected at large. ~~Four council members shall be assigned to certain geographic districts for liaison purposes to improve communications between City government and Kelso citizens as follows: Position No. 1 shall be assigned to the "south district," which shall consist of that area within the city limits between the Cowlitz River east to Interstate 5 and Allen Street south to the city limits. Position No. 3 shall be assigned to the "west district," which shall consist of that area within the city limits between the Cowlitz River west to the City limits. Position No. 5 shall be assigned to the "east district," which shall consist of that area within the city limits between Interstate 5 east to the city limits to the east, north, and south. Position No. 6 shall be assigned to the "north district," which shall consist of that area within the city limits between the Cowlitz River east to Interstate 5 and Allen Street north to the city limits.~~ The mayor shall be elected as provided in Section 2.03.

(b) Eligibility. Only those registered voters of the city who shall have resided in the city for one year prior to the election shall be eligible to hold the office of council member. ~~For those council member positions elected from districts, only those registered voters who shall have resided in the respective district for one year prior to the election shall be eligible to hold the office of council member.~~

...

2.06 Vacancies; Forfeiture of Office; Filing of Vacancies.

(a) Vacancies. The office of a council member shall become vacant upon the member's death, resignation, removal from office or forfeiture of office in any manner authorized by law; in addition, the office of a council member shall also become vacant if any council member fails to attend six scheduled regular and/or special meetings of the council during a calendar year unless on authorized City-related business, which shall be approved by a majority of the council. ~~In the event that a duly elected council member elected by a district no longer resides within that respective district, said council member may serve as a council member until the next election, at which time the position shall be deemed vacant.~~

...

(c) Filling of Vacancies. A vacancy in the city council shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, at the next regular election following not less than 60 days upon the occurrence of the vacancy, but the council by a majority vote of all its remaining members shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the person elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term takes office. ~~The council may appoint a council member not residing in the district from which a council member~~

~~position elected by a district is vacated, provided that no other qualified candidate from said district seeks appointment.~~

