

# **Election for Three City Charter Amendments Proposed by the Fire Union**

Andy Segovia  
August 16, 2018

# Background

- ▶ April 11, 2018 City Clerk received three petitions from Fire Union for Charter Amendment election:
  - Relax Referendum requirements and expand scope
  - Limit compensation, term, and hiring of future City Manager
  - Allow Fire Union to unilaterally call for binding arbitration on CBA negotiations
- ▶ City Clerk certified signatures on May 17, 2018
- ▶ State law requires Council to call an election to be held on next uniform election date – Nov. 6, 2018

# Proposition A

- Expand the types of ordinances that may be subject to referendum including appropriation of money, levying a tax, granting a franchise, fixing public utility rates, zoning and rezoning of property
- Increase the number of days a petition may be filed seeking a referendum on a Council ordinance from 40 to 180 days after passage of the ordinance
- Provide that no more than 20,000 signatures of registered voters are required for a referendum petition instead of 10% of electors qualified to vote at the last regular municipal election

# Proposition B

- Limit the term a City Manager may serve to no more than eight years
- Limit the compensation of the City Manager to no more than ten times the annual salary furnished to the lowest paid full-time city employee
- Require a supermajority vote to appoint the City Manager

# Proposition C

- ▶ Provide the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 624 with unilateral authority to require the City to participate in binding arbitration of all issues in dispute.

# Action by Council

- ▶ Under State law once the City Clerk certifies the signatures the Council “votes” to place the petitions on the ballot.
- ▶ This is a “ministerial act” – no consideration of the petition on the merits
- ▶ Council should act with no debate or discussion of the content of the petitions

# Next Steps

- ▶ Notice of the election will be published in the newspaper on the same day in each of two successive weeks
- ▶ Notice must include:
  - Substantial copy of proposed amendments
  - Estimate of anticipated fiscal impact to the City if proposed amendments are approved at the election
- ▶ Fiscal Impact assessment published
- ▶ Election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018
- ▶ Contract for Election Services with the Bexar County Elections Administrator will be brought at a later date

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▶ **BACK UP SLIDES**

# Ballot language

- ▶ **CITY OF SAN ANTONIO PROPOSITION A**
- ▶ Shall the City Charter be amended to expand the types of ordinances that may be subject to referendum including appropriation of money, levying a tax, granting a franchise, fixing public utility rates, zoning and rezoning of property; and to increase the number of days within which a petition may be filed seeking a referendum on an ordinance passed by Council from forty to one hundred eighty days after passage of the ordinance; and to provide that no more than twenty thousand signatures of registered voters are required for a referendum petition instead of ten percent of those electors qualified to vote at the last regular municipal election?

# Ballot language

- ▶ **CITY OF SAN ANTONIO PROPOSITION B**
- ▶ Shall the City Charter be amended to limit the term the City Manager may serve to no longer than eight years, and to limit the compensation of the City Manager to no more than ten times the annual salary furnished to the lowest paid full-time city employee, and to require a supermajority vote of City Council to appoint the City Manager?

# Ballot language

- ▶ **CITY OF SAN ANTONIO PROPOSITION C**
- ▶ Shall the City Charter be amended to provide the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 624 with unilateral authority to require the City to participate in binding arbitration of all issues in dispute with the Association within forty-five days of the City's receipt of the Association's written arbitration request?