

City of Gahanna Charter Review Commission Prioritization Matrix

Draft Ballot Measure One *An Amendment to Reform Gahanna's Non- Partisan Primary Election Process*

This scoring tool is advisory and is intended to guide structured deliberation by the Commission. Advancement of any proposed amendment requires a motion and majority vote of the Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission's collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission's deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
<i>Governance Relevance</i>	5
<i>Public Impact</i>	4
<i>Governance Clarity & Effectiveness</i>	5
<i>Strategic Plan Alignment</i>	3
<i>Legal / Risk Alignment</i>	5
<i>Readiness for Ballot Consideration</i>	5
Final Score:	27 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 001	The purpose of the change is to eliminate an unnecessary primary election when only two candidates file, reducing administrative burden and aligning with ORC §3513.02 adapted for Gahanna's nonpartisan framework.

City of Gahanna Charter Review Commission Prioritization Matrix

Draft Ballot Measure Two *An Amendment to Require a Strategic Plan for the City of Gahanna and to Provide for Regular Review and Update*

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Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission's collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission's deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	5
Public Impact	5
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	4
Strategic Plan Alignment	5
Legal / Risk Alignment	4
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	4
Final Score:	27 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 004	The purpose of the change is to embed a strategic planning requirement in the Mayor's executive duties, ensuring Council and the public have a formal opportunity to review and comment on the City's long-term direction.

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Draft Ballot Measure Three
*An Amendment to Align Residency and Conflict
of Interest Requirements Across Elected Offices*

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Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission’s collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission’s deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	5
Public Impact	4
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	5
Strategic Plan Alignment	3
Legal / Risk Alignment	4
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	4
Final Score:	25 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 002	The purpose of the change is to standardize the continuous qualified elector requirement across Mayor, Council, and City Attorney.
CRC 003 / CRC 026	The purpose of the change is to align the public-office conflict prohibition for Mayor, City Attorney, and Council so that all three offices are governed by the same disqualification standard, removing anomalous carve-outs in §10.02.

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**Draft Ballot Measure Five
*An Amendment to Provide for Modernizing City
Council Processes and Procedures***

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	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	4
Public Impact	4
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	4
Strategic Plan Alignment	3
Legal / Risk Alignment	4
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	3
Final Score:	22 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 005 / 012	The purpose of the change is to modernize the public notice requirement in §4.13 by replacing the outdated physical-posting standard with outcome-based language that accommodates current and future communication practices.
CRC 009	The purpose of the change is to provide scheduling flexibility by shifting the organizational meeting anchor date and simplifying the standard for relocating a regular meeting to an alternate venue.
CRC 011	The purpose of the change is to remove a Robert's Rules of Order carry-over clause from the quorum provision that is unnecessary in a seven-member Council and may create confusion about adjournment authority.
CRC 021	The purpose of the change is to align the consequence for an improper voting abstention with the due process framework in §4.07, replacing an automatic self-executing removal trigger with a notice-and-hearing procedure.

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**Draft Ballot Measure Six
*An Amendment to Adopt Resident-Population
Ward Apportionment Language***

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	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	5
Public Impact	3
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	3
Strategic Plan Alignment	2
Legal / Risk Alignment	3
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	2
Final Score:	18 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 025	The purpose of the change is to shift ward boundary equalization from a registered-voter basis to a resident-population basis, aligning apportionment with total-population.

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Draft Ballot Measure Seven *An Amendment to Establish Term Limits for Council Leadership and Align Voting Procedure*

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	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	4
Public Impact	2
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	3
Strategic Plan Alignment	2
Legal / Risk Alignment	2
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	3
Final Score:	16 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 008	The purpose of the change is to authorize a two-year term for Council President and Vice President, providing continuity in the leadership role that supervises the Clerk of Council and carries significant administrative responsibilities.

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**Draft Ballot Measure Eight
*An Amendment to Modernize Special Meeting
Notice Requirements***

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Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission’s collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission’s deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	3
Public Impact	3
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	4
Strategic Plan Alignment	2
Legal / Risk Alignment	3
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	4
Final Score:	19 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 010	The purpose of the change is to add the City Attorney to the list of officials who may request a special meeting and to modernize the notice language to reflect current communication practices.

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**Draft Ballot Measure Ten
*An Amendment to Restructure Article V
Enumeration of Administrative Departments***

This scoring tool is advisory and is intended to guide structured deliberation by the Commission. Advancement of any proposed amendment requires a motion and majority vote of the Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission’s collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission’s deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	5
Public Impact	3
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	5
Strategic Plan Alignment	4
Legal / Risk Alignment	5
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	5
Final Score:	27 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 006	The purpose of the change is to resolve the internal conflict between the Mayor's 2021 reorganization authority in §5.02 and the enumerated department list in §§5.04–5.11 by removing the fixed enumeration from the Charter.

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Draft Ballot Eleven *An Amendment to Reform Planning Commission Attendance, Removal, and Member Accountability Standards*

This scoring tool is advisory and is intended to guide structured deliberation by the Commission. Advancement of any proposed amendment requires a motion and majority vote of the Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission's collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission's deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	4
Public Impact	3
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	5
Strategic Plan Alignment	3
Legal / Risk Alignment	5
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	4
Final Score:	24 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 017	The purpose of the change is to replace the current fixed-number absence threshold with a percentage-based attendance standard, creating a more equitable and adaptable measure of Planning Commission member participation.
CRC 018	The purpose of the change is to eliminate the automatic removal trigger for consecutive absences, ensuring that all attendance-based removal decisions are evaluated under the overall percentage standard rather than a separate automatic rule.
CRC 020	The purpose of the change is to define "just cause" for Planning Commission removal and require notice and an opportunity to respond before removal, establishing a due process standard consistent with the seriousness of that action.

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Draft Ballot Measure Twelve
*An Amendment to Repeal the Board of Zoning
and Building Appeals and Transfer Its Authority*

This scoring tool is advisory and is intended to guide structured deliberation by the Commission. Advancement of any proposed amendment requires a motion and majority vote of the Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission’s collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission’s deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	5
Public Impact	3
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	4
Strategic Plan Alignment	4
Legal / Risk Alignment	5
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	5
Final Score:	26 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 007	The purpose of the change is to repeal the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals, which has experienced a significant decline in caseload, and transfer its appeals authority to the Planning Commission.

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Draft Ballot Measure Thirteen
*An Amendment to Revise the Frequency and
Scope of Mandatory Charter Review*

This scoring tool is advisory and is intended to guide structured deliberation by the Commission. Advancement of any proposed amendment requires a motion and majority vote of the Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission’s collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission’s deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	5
Public Impact	3
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	5
Strategic Plan Alignment	2
Legal / Risk Alignment	5
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	3
Final Score:	23 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 022 / 023	The purpose of the change is to amend the mandatory five-year convening cycle for the Charter Review Commission, either by extending the interval, eliminating the automatic trigger, or requiring Council to specify a targeted scope.

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**Draft Ballot Measure Fourteen
*An Amendment to Update the Charter's Non-Discrimination Protections***

This scoring tool is advisory and is intended to guide structured deliberation by the Commission. Advancement of any proposed amendment requires a motion and majority vote of the Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to score potential amendments individually using the provided criteria. Those individual scores will then be aggregated to provide a general indication of the Commission’s collective assessment and to inform its deliberations. The aggregated score is intended to inform discussion and does not replace the Commission’s deliberative judgment.

	Score (1-5)
Governance Relevance	5
Public Impact	5
Governance Clarity & Effectiveness	4
Strategic Plan Alignment	5
Legal / Risk Alignment	3
Readiness for Ballot Consideration	4
Final Score:	26 out of 30

Score Interpretation Guide	
25-30	<i>Strong Candidate</i>
19-24	<i>Worth Serious Consideration</i>
13-18	<i>Requires Further Deliberation</i>
6-12	<i>Not Recommended at this Time</i>

CRC No.	Rationale / Reasoning
CRC 024	The purpose of the change is to align the Charter's non-discrimination enumeration with the City's existing Equal Employment Opportunity statement, updating protected categories to reflect current legal standards and administrative practice.

1. Draft Ballot Measure 2 — Strategic Plan Requirement (27)

- This is a strong governance measure because it would institutionalize strategic planning as a core part of how the City makes long-term decisions, rather than allowing the City’s direction to depend solely on one administration, one Council, or one election cycle at a time.
- The Our Gahanna Strategic Plan was unanimously adopted by City Council and is described by the City as a shared vision and practical roadmap to guide future decisions and investments; embedding a strategic planning requirement in the Charter would recognize that long-term planning should remain an integral part of the City’s governance structure.
- The measure also directly advances accountability to residents by requiring regular reporting, Council review, and public input when the plan is updated, ensuring that the community continues to have a voice in shaping Gahanna’s future.
- Importantly, this amendment does not require any particular policy outcome or remove Council’s legislative or budgetary authority; instead, it creates a durable process for aligning City operations, future planning, public engagement, and decision-making around an adopted long-term vision.

2. Draft Ballot Measure 1 — Nonpartisan Primary Reform (27)

- This is a strong candidate because it addresses a clear Charter-level election issue while producing an immediate and understandable public benefit.
- The measure would eliminate an unnecessary mayoral primary when two or fewer candidates file, reducing administrative burden, avoiding unnecessary election costs, and aligning Gahanna’s nonpartisan framework with an adapted ORC-style approach.
- It scores highly on governance clarity and legal/risk alignment because it resolves a known ambiguity in the current Charter rather than making a broader policy change.
- It is also highly ready for ballot consideration because voters can easily understand the purpose: no primary should be required when the primary cannot narrow the field.

3. Draft Ballot Measure 10 — Administrative Department Enumeration (27)

- This is a strong candidate because it corrects an actual internal Charter conflict between the Mayor’s 2021 reorganization authority in §5.02 and the fixed department list in §§5.04–5.11.
- This directly supports governance clarity and legal/risk alignment by removing outdated operational detail from the Charter while preserving the Charter’s role in defining authority, accountability, and core administrative structure.

- It also aligns with Our Gahanna’s emphasis on effective, collaborative, and responsive municipal services by giving the executive branch flexibility to organize departments in a way that reflects current operational needs.
- This is a strong ballot candidate because it is narrow, defensible, and easy to explain: the Charter should establish governing authority, not freeze the City’s organizational chart in place.

4. Draft Ballot Measure 12 — BZBA Repeal / Transfer of Authority (26)

- This is a strong candidate because it advances governance effectiveness, legal/risk alignment, and ballot readiness by repealing a seldom-used board and transferring its remaining authority to a body better positioned to exercise it.
- The record shows the BZBA’s caseload has significantly declined, and meeting minutes reflect concern that its infrequent use makes it difficult for members to develop and maintain the expertise needed to interpret complex zoning ordinances.
- This measure therefore reduces risk not merely by streamlining government, but by placing rare appeals and interpretation matters before a body with more regular exposure to planning, zoning, and development issues.
- It also supports the Our Gahanna goal of effective and responsive municipal services by simplifying the governance structure, which no longer appears to add meaningful value.

5. Draft Ballot Measure 14 — Non-Discrimination Protections (25)

- This is a strong candidate for advancement because it updates an existing Charter nondiscrimination provision so that the City’s foundational document better aligns with the City’s current Equal Employment Opportunity policy and administrative practice.
- The proposal is not creating a new program or expanding operational authority; rather, it is modernizing language that already exists in the Charter and ensuring that the Charter reflects the City’s stated commitment to fair treatment, inclusive public service, and access to public resources.
- This measure has a direct public impact because Section 23.07 governs how elected officials, appointed officials, and City employees discharge their duties and whether protected characteristics may be used to limit the availability of public resources.
- It also aligns strongly with Our Gahanna’s emphasis on a welcoming, accessible community that fosters belonging and connection.
- Because enumerating protected categories can create future risk of exclusion by omission, the strongest version of this amendment should use updated, inclusive, and non-exhaustive language, paired with a catch-all such as “or any other status protected by applicable law,” so the Charter remains durable as legal standards and community expectations evolve.

Criteria Definitions	
<i>Governance Relevance</i>	<p>Does the proposal address a core Charter-level governance issue?</p> <p>High Score (5): Directly relates to governance structure or authority established in the Charter. Low Score (1): Relates primarily to policy, administration, or matters better suited for ordinance or practice.</p>
<i>Public Impact</i>	<p>Does this meaningfully impact residents or accountability?</p> <p>High Score (5): Meaningfully affects residents' rights, transparency, or accountability. Low Score (1): Has little to no effect on residents or public-facing governance.</p>
<i>Governance Clarity & Effectiveness</i>	<p>Does this improve clarity or effectiveness?</p> <p>High Score (5): Substantially improves clarity, eliminates ambiguity, or strengthens operational effectiveness. Low Score (1): Provides minimal or purely cosmetic improvement to clarity or function.</p>
<i>Strategic Plan Alignment</i>	<p>Does this proposal support the goals identified in the Our Gahanna Strategic Plan?</p> <p>High Score (5): Directly supports goals or strategies in the strategic plan or strengthens the City's governance capacity to pursue them. Low Score (1): Does not meaningfully relate to or support the goals or strategies of the strategic plan.</p>
<i>Legal / Risk Alignment</i>	<p>Is this legally necessary or risk-reducing?</p> <p>High Score (5): Corrects a legal conflict, compliance issue, or significant risk exposure. Low Score (1): Addresses no known legal concern or risk.</p>
<i>Readiness for Ballot Consideration</i>	<p>Is this understandable and realistically implementable?</p> <p>High Score (5): Is clearly defined, well-supported by evidence or stakeholder input, and can be responsibly presented to voters. Low Score (1): Is underdeveloped, lacks supporting information, or is not ready for voter consideration.</p>