

Subject: proposed Amendments for further discussion
Sent: 3/2/2026, 1:44:40 PM
From: Carrin Wester<westerc@gahanna.gov>
To: Jeremy VanMeter
Cc: Ethan Barnhardt; Priya Tamararasan

Hi Jeremy,

Per our discussion last Thursday, I wanted to submit in writing, the two items I mentioned as possible charter amendments. As Chair Barnhardt indicated, we can discuss these in one of our upcoming meetings, as appropriate:

1. Residency requirement for City Attorney: The charter has 3 different standards for each elected official; they are not consistent, with the City Attorney role being the least restrictive. The language for the City Attorney residency requirement is also an outlier, as compared to the wording in sections 3.02 (Mayor) and 4.03 (council).

Section 10.02 - Qualifications (City Attorney):

"The City Attorney shall be an elector of the City at the time of filing for and during the term of office."

As opposed to Mayor's qualifications, in Section 3.02:

"A Candidate for Mayor shall be a continuously qualified elector of this Municipality for two (2) years immediately prior to the date of primary election and continuing through the elected Mayor's term of office."

Additionally, it is also different from the qualifications for City Council, Section 4.03:

"A Candidate for Council at large shall be a continuously qualified elector of this Municipality for fifteen (15) months immediately prior to the Municipal General Election and continuing through the elected Council member's term of office. Each Candidate for Council elected from a ward shall be a continuously qualified elector of the ward from which the Council member seeks election or is elected for fifteen (15) months prior to the Municipal General Election and continuing through the elected Council member's term of office."

2. The mention of holding an office in a political party or serving as a delegate at a political convention, while serving in the elected role of City Attorney also appears to be an outlier as compared to the provisions or allowances for the other elected roles. I am also wondering why "intergovernmental cooperation" is mentioned, specifically.

Section 10.02: Qualifications (beginning with the second sentence):

"The City Attorney shall not hold any other public office or public employment during a term, except the City Attorney may hold office in a political party or be a delegate to a political party convention, serve as a notary public, serve as a member or officer in the military reserve or national guard, serve in an office, position, or capacity to further intergovernmental cooperation, and may hold any office or position permitted by this Charter or the laws of Ohio."

Respectfully submitted,

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