

2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Recommendations to Council

Presented by: Chair Ethan C. Barnhardt and
Vice Chair Carrin Wester

July 6, 2026



WHAT THE PUBLIC RECORD SHOWS

The recommendations came from a staged public process, not a single end-of-process vote.

Feb. 12 **Organized**
Oath of office, Chair/Vice Chair elected, rules and meeting calendar adopted.

Feb. 26 **Educated**
Our Gahanna Strategic Plan + Local Government 101 grounded the review in community vision and governance context.

Mar. 12 **Adopted framework**
Process Architecture approved; public engagement and proposal gathering continued before deliberation.

Apr. 23 **Moved to deliberation**
27 proposals consolidated into 14 draft measures; threshold questions applied before scoring.

May 14 **Scored and refined**
Matrix results, consensus items, middle-tier discussion, and direction to draft selected measures.

May 21 / Jun. 4 **Reviewed language**
City Attorney drafts refined for voter clarity, legal accuracy, rationale, and single-subject structure.

Gather the full range of ideas first, then narrow through thresholds, scoring, legal review, and public votes.

HOW PROPOSALS WERE FILTERED AND EVALUATED

The matrix supported judgment; it did not replace deliberation, legal review, or majority vote.

1 Charter-level?
Does the idea belong in the Charter rather than ordinance, rules, code, or practice?

2 Sufficient information?
Does the Commission need more education, legal guidance, stakeholder input, or time?

3 Ready for drafting?
Does the item warrant scoring or housekeeping review before moving to legal language?

Adopted scoring criteria

Governance relevance

Public impact

Governance clarity & effectiveness

Strategic Plan alignment

Legal / risk alignment

Readiness for ballot consideration

Score interpretation

25-30

Strong candidate

19-24

Worth serious consideration

13-18

Further deliberation

6-12

Not recommended at this time

Each recommendation still required public discussion, legal review, and an affirmative Commission vote.

TEN RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Each resolution stands on its own; the package reflects the Commission's broader themes.

Modernize / Align

RES-0030 Administrative
Departments

RES-0031 Office of the City
Attorney

Clarify / Standardize

RES-0027 Elected Official
Qualifications

RES-0029 Council Member
Abstentions

Reduce Cost / Duplication

RES-0026 Mayoral Primary
Election

RES-0033 Planning + Zoning
Appeals
Consolidation

Accountability / Stewardship

RES-0028 Ward Boundary
Adjustments

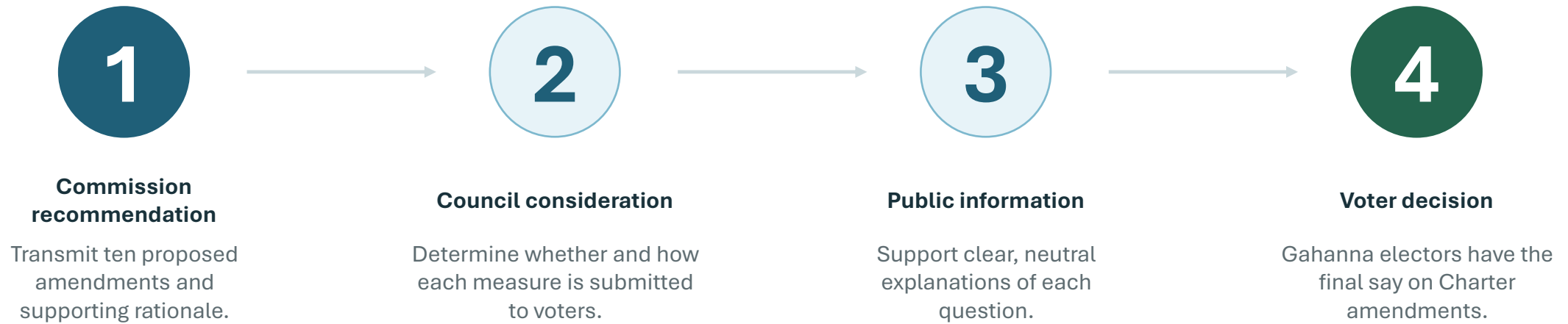
RES-0032 Planning
Commission
Attendance

RES-0034 CRC Convening
Cycle

RES-0035 Non-Discrimination
Provisions

COUNCIL'S ROLE AND THE VOTER HANDOFF

The Commission has completed its review; the next decision points belong to Council and the electors.



Each measure reflects meaningful public discussion, legal review, careful consideration, and a final judgment that it is appropriate for Council and voter consideration.

Thank you