

City Charter Election History

Date	Charter Amendment Subject	Election	Petition	Result	Key Issues
May 2023	Justice Policy (six parts)	Yes	Yes	Proposition Failed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt Justice Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limits enforcement of low-level marijuana possession; • limits enforcement of abortion crimes; • bans no-knock warrants, • bans chokeholds by San Antonio police officers, • establishes a cite-and-release policy for low-level nonviolent crimes, and • creates a new office of Justice, and provides for a Director to serve as the lead representative charged with fulfilling the Justice Policy
May 2021	Bonds for affordable housing and other public purposes	Yes	No. Staff initiative, Council approved	Charter amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand authority of city to issue bonds for public purposes including affordable housing following election on the matter.
Nov. 2018	City Manager service and compensation; Binding arbitration for CBA; Lowering threshold for referendum petitions	Yes	Yes	Charter amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager pay and service capped • Fire union can declare impasse and require binding arbitration for CBA • Referendum measure failed • No Charter Committee appointed for these measures.
May 2015	Streetcar or light rail	Yes	Yes, but signatures insufficient to require election –Council ordered the election	Charter amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters must approve any grant of permission by Council to lay streetcar or light rail tracks and any expenditure of funds or issuance of obligations • No Charter Committee appointed for this measure, but was for other amendments.

City Charter Election History

May 12, 2012	Council vacancy	Yes	No. Council memo	Charter amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy in council office (other than mayor) filled by vote of council, not citizens; • Amendment provided for election if more than 270 days remain in unexpired term; • No Charter Committee appointed.
Nov. 4, 2008	Extension of term limits	Yes	No. Council initiative	Charter Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended terms from 2 to 4 full terms; • Clarified Mayor is a separate office from other Council places; • No Charter Committee appointed.
May 15, 2004	Council Pay Increased term limits Ethics Review Board	Yes	No. Council initiative	Charter Amended, but Council pay and term limits defeated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics Review Board created; • Council pay and term limits defeated; • Charter committee formed for development of propositions.
Nov. 6, 2001	City Attorney Civil Service Internal Auditor	Yes	No. Council initiative	Charter Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gave Council confirmation power over City Manager selection of City Attorney; • removed licensed professionals from Civil Service protection; • Created Internal Audit Department; • Only 4.4% of the City's 688,720 registered voters cast votes (30,271 votes) • Not sure if Charter committee formed
May 3, 1997	Massive overhaul	Yes	No. Council initiative	Charter Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most proposals came from Charter Review Committee of 1993 • Massive overhaul of the Charter. • Many obsolete provisions deleted.
May 4, 1991	Council term limits	Yes	Yes. Citizen initiative	Charter amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative petitions submitted by citizens to amend charter to limit the number of terms

City Charter Election History

					council members could serve to two consecutive two year terms.
Jan. 15, 1977	Council Districts Quorum Recall provisions Other measures	Yes	No. Council initiative	Charter amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec. 4, Creation, composition and powers. Increased council districts from 9 to 11, with Mayor being place 11; • Sec. 13, Quorum. Provided for quorum; • Sec. 15, Ordinances and resolutions - when to take effect; emergency measures. Requires 8 affirmative votes to be effective in emergency situations; • Sec. 26, Recall provisions. Added recall provisions for city council members; • Sec. 99, Revenue bonds. Set tax year as calendar year, required sinking fund.
Nov. 2, 1974	Council Pay Terms Vacancies Taxes Bonds	Yes	No. Council initiative	Charter Amended Council pay failed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition to compensate Council \$200/year, \$50/per meeting attended, not to exceed a total of \$6,400.00 failed; • Sec. 5, Terms of Office. Set out as two years, beginning June 1 following election; • Sec. 8, Vacancies. Direct election of Mayor, procedure for filling vacancies. • Sec. 21, \$100 filing fee or petition for place on ballot; passed
Oct. 2, 1951	Charter Adoption	Yes	No. Council initiative	Charter adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1951 Charter adopted by voters; • Effective Dec. 1, 1951.