

Proposed Amendments to
Augusta Charter

**ARTICLE II:
City Council**

Sec. 1. Composition, election, tenure of office.

The council shall be composed of eight (8) members, one (1) member from each of the four (4) wards of the city, and four (4) at-large members. The ward members shall be elected by and from the qualified voters of the ward; and the candidate for each ward receiving the largest number of votes cast in each ward shall be elected councilor for that ward. The at-large members shall be elected by and from the qualified voters of the city and the candidate(s) receiving the largest number of votes cast city wide shall be elected councilor(s).

The terms of all councilors shall be for three (3) years or until successors are elected and qualified. No person may be elected as a city councilor for more than three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms, unless he or she was elected to an initial term of eighteen (18) months or less, in which case he or she may still be elected to three (3) consecutive year terms.

Article II, Sec. 6. Regular meetings.

The council shall meet on the first ~~Monday~~ Thursday in January, at such time and place on that date, or at such other date as the previous council shall determine, at which time the mayor-elect, the councilors-elect, members-elect of the school board, and the school board chairperson-elect shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties by the city clerk, a notary public, dedimus justice or an attorney-at-law. Thereafter the council shall meet at such time and place as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution, except that it shall meet regularly each month.

Article II, Section 9.

The council may by an affirmative vote of six (6) voting members pass emergency ordinances, orders or resolves to take effect at the time indicated therein. Such emergency ordinances, orders or resolves shall contain a section in which the emergency is set forth and defined. No emergency ordinance may be enacted unless it involves life, health, safety or property. ~~Every emergency ordinance shall automatically stand repealed as of the sixty first day following the date on which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent enactment of the ordinance on a non-emergency basis.~~

Article II, Sec. 10. Charter review.

Unless otherwise required by municipal referendum or state law, ~~a charter commission shall be created and elected in accordance with state law at least every ten (10) years in order to provide for citizen review of the structure of city government. the Council will review the Charter at least once every ten (10) years to determine whether a Charter Commission should be established or whether amendments should be considered.~~

Article II, Section 11. Leaves of Absence.

If any member of the City Council or the Board of Education, or the Mayor or Chairperson of the Board of Education is unavailable or unable to serve for any reason for one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days, they will be considered to have resigned their position. After 120 days the City Council or the Board of Education, as the case may be, will either accept the resignation and declare a vacancy or extend a leave of absence to the date it determines.

ARTICLE III:

Mayor

Sec. 1. Eligibility, election and tenure of office.

A mayor shall be elected by and from the qualified voters of the city and shall be a resident of the city. The mayor shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until a successor is elected and qualified, except that when elected to fill a vacancy the mayor shall hold office only for the unexpired term or until a successor is elected and qualified. No person may serve be elected as mayor for more than three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms, unless he or she was elected to an initial term of eighteen (18) months or less, in which case he or she may still be elected to three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms.

ARTICLE IV:

Board of Education

Sec. 1. Composition, election and tenure of office

The terms of all members shall be for three years or until their successors are elected and qualified. Including the office of chairperson, no person may ~~serve~~ be elected as a member of the board for more than three consecutive three year terms, unless he or she was elected to an initial term of 18 months or less, in which case he or she may still be elected to three consecutive three year terms. Members shall be nominated and elected under the provisions of Article V. Their qualifications as to residency in a ward and the effect of removal therefrom shall be the same as in the case of councilors hereinbefore set forth.

Article IV, Sec. 5. Chairperson of board.

No person may ~~serve~~ be elected as chairperson of the board for more than three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms, unless he or she was elected to an initial term of eighteen (18) months or less, in which case he or she may be elected to three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms. This

limitation does not prevent a school board member from being elected to 3 consecutive terms as Chairperson starting immediately after that member's term expires on the board.

Article V, Sec. 5. Filing nomination ~~papers~~petitions; acceptances of nominations must be filed. ~~The nomination petitions for any one candidate shall be assembled and united into one petition and filed with the City Clerk not earlier than the first Tuesday in August and no later than 4:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday in August. Nomination papers~~petitions for elections will be available on the 100th day prior to the election, and shall be available for 40 days. No nomination shall be valid unless the candidates shall file with the City Clerk in writing not later than the third Tuesday in August prior to the November election his or her consent, accepting the nomination, agreeing not to withdraw and, if elected, to qualify.

The nomination petitions for any one candidate shall be assembled and united into one petition and filed with the City Clerk not earlier than the 75th day nor later than the 60th day prior to the election.

The Council shall have the authority to shorten the nomination period as needed.

No nomination petition shall be valid unless the candidate shall file with the City Clerk in writing his or her consent, accepting the nomination, agreeing not to withdraw and, if elected, to qualify; prior to the close of business on the last day of filing.

Any changes to State law which alter these deadlines will automatically be incorporated into the Charter.

Article V, Sec. 6. List of candidates to be published.

The City Clerk shall certify the list of candidates and shall cause to be published in one or more ~~of the daily newspapers circulating conspicuous places within~~ the City the names, the residences and offices to which nominated, of the candidates who have duly filed the above-described petitions and acceptances.

Article V, Sec. 9. Count of ballots.

All votes cast for the several offices shall be sorted, counted, ~~declared and registered in open and posted in each polling place ward meetings~~ as provided by statute. The Ward Clerk shall forthwith deliver to the City Clerk a certified copy of the records of such election.

The Council shall examine copies of the records of the several wards, certified as aforesaid, and shall cause the persons who shall have been elected Mayor, and members of the Council and other elected office as provided in this Charter to be notified in writing of their election. If it shall appear that at the first election, or at any subsequent election, one or more of the offices to be filled has not been filled or if the person elected shall refuse to accept the office for which he or she has been elected, the Council shall order a special election to fill such vacancy or vacancies.

Article VII, Section 7:

No order or orders providing for the issue of bonds which in the aggregate total in excess of ~~seven hundred fifty thousand~~ one million dollars (~~\$750,000.00~~1,000,000), pledging the full faith and credit of the city and approved by the council in any one fiscal year shall become effective until ratified by a majority of the voters voting thereon at a general or special election. The provisions of this section shall not apply to loans made in anticipation of receipts from taxes nor in anticipation of money to be received from the state or federal governments.