

Background

The following represents a brief description of each of the recommended changes to Election Code sections:

City Clerk to be Superintendent of Elections (Sec. 103)

This amendment clarifies that elections conducted by the City Clerk, as opposed to another jurisdiction, will be held in accordance with the City Charter, the City Election Code and all other applicable laws.

Established Election Dates and the Classification of Elections (Sec. 104)

This amendment specifies that until the year 2020, elections held in the City will be held in March and May of odd-numbered years. This amendment further specifies that no such elections will be held in 2019 in order to transition to the new even-year election schedule. Beginning in 2020, City elections will be held in June and November of even-numbered years.

Consolidated and Concurrent Elections (Sec. 105)

This amendment makes a technical revision to the provision that permits the City Council to consolidate City elections.

Ordinance Calling an Election (Sec. 106)

This amendment incorporates provisions from Charter section 402 (concerning how the City Council is to order the holding of an election) into the Code.

Board of Education (Sec. 107)

This amendment removes obsolete language from this Code section.

Examination of the Initiative Petitions (Sec. 711)

As provided in the recent Charter amendments, this amendment adds language that specifies how proponents of an initiative petition may withdraw their petition before the City Clerk certifies the petition has qualified for presentation before the City Council. This amendment also moves language that specifies how a signer of an initiative petition may withdraw his or her signature before the petition is accepted by the City Clerk.

Precinct Board Member Qualifications (Sec. 802)

This amendment adds a reference to exemptions, outlined in Section 803, to the precinct board member qualifications listed in this section and in Charter Section 403.

Additional Assistant Precinct Board Members (803)

This amendment renames this section and adds language that authorizes persons who are eligible to serve as a precinct board member under the State Election Code to serve as additional assistants at the polls on Election Day. The current Code only authorizes students to serve at the polls alongside precinct board members. The new amendment also limits the Clerk from appointing no more than a total of five students or other eligible poll workers to a precinct board and restricts all assistants from tallying ballots once the polls close.

Conducting the Official Canvass (Sec. 1226)

This amendment expands the post-election canvass period from 21 days to 28 days as provided in the recent charter amendments and to comport with the recent 3-day vote-by-mail ballot return requirements.

Certified Statement of Results (Sec. 1239)

As provided in the recent Charter amendments, this amendment expands the deadline to prepare and submit a certified statement of election results from 21 days to 28 days to comply with the recent 3-day vote-by-mail ballot return requirements.

Ordering of a Recall Election (Sec. 1501)

As provided in the recent charter amendments, this amendment expands the period in which the City Council may call a special recall election from not less than 60 days to 88 days and not more than 110 days to 125 days.

Elections Conducted by the City Clerk

Amendments to the following Code sections clarify that the provision only applies to elections conducted by the City Clerk.

- Eligibility to Vote (Sec. 110)
- Time Off for Voting (Sec. 112)
- Establishment of Voting Precincts (Sec. 200)
- Write-In Candidates (Sec. 312)
- Official Sample Ballot Specifications (Sec. 400)
- Ballots Used (Sec. 500)
- Provision of Paper Ballots to the Precinct Board Member (Sec. 502)
- Provision of Voting Devices and Electronic Voting Equipment to the Precinct Board Members or to the Polling Place (Sec. 503)
- Ballot Form and Specifications (Sec. 504)
- Selection of and Composition for Polling Places (Sec. 809)
- Provision of Equipment and Supplies to Polling Place (Sec. 817)
- Equipment and Supplies for Concurrent Election (Sec. 818)
- Provision of Digest of Duties (Sec. 819)

Withdrawing a Signature from a Petition

Amendments to the following Code sections reorganize and clarify language specifying how a signer of a nominating, initiative, referendum, or recall petition may withdraw his or her signature before the petition is accepted by the City Clerk.

- City Clerk Acceptance of a Nominating Petition (Sec. 308)
- Requirements for Signing Nominating Petitions (Sec. 309)
- City Clerk Acceptance of an Initiative Petition (Sec. 710)
- City Clerk Acceptance of a Referendum Petition (Sec. 716)
- Examination of Referendum Petitions (Sec. 717)
- City Clerk Acceptance of a Recall Petition (Sec. 725)
- Examination of Recall Petition (Sec. 726)