



Local Ballot Measure: Z

Full Text of Measure Z

Text of Proposed Charter Amendment to Be Submitted to the Voters: Proposal to Amend the Pacific Grove City Charter to Reduce the Size of the City Council from Six (6) Councilmembers and a Mayor to Four (4) Councilmembers and a Mayor and Redefine the Votes Needed for a Quorum, A Majority Vote and Other Select Actions.

TEXT OF AMENDMENT TO PACIFIC GROVE CITY CHARTER

Amended text shown in ***underscored bold italics*** text, and deleted text shown in strikethrough text. Highlighted text shown solely for ease of reference.

PART 1: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

Section 1. That Article 6 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 6 Officers and Employees

The officers of the City of Pacific Grove shall consist of ~~six~~ ***four*** Councilmembers and a Mayor, a City Manager, a City Clerk, a City Treasurer, a City Attorney, other officers as provided by ordinance, and members of Commissions, Boards and Committees as provided by Charter and by ordinance; provided, the Council may by ordinance provide for such subordinate officers, assistants, deputies, clerks and employees as it deems necessary, and that the Council may at any time, when in its judgment the interest of the City so demands, consolidate by ordinance the powers and duties of two or more City officers, and place the same in charge of one such officer. The Mayor and the members of the Council shall be elected from the City at large. All other officers, assistants, deputies, clerks, and employees shall be appointed as provided in this Charter, or as the Council may provide by ordinance in case no provision for their appointment is herein made, and they shall hold their respective offices or positions at the pleasure of the appointing power, except as otherwise herein provided.

Section 2. That Article 11 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 11 The Mayor

A Mayor shall be elected at each general municipal election and shall hold office for the term of two years from and after the Tuesday next succeeding the day of such election and until a successor is elected and qualified. The Mayor may receive compensation as provided by ordinance, but in no case shall the compensation exceed that amount which is permitted by State Law for General Law cities of comparable size to Pacific Grove. The Mayor shall be ineligible to hold any office or employment with the City except as a member of any board, commission or committee thereof of which the Mayor is constituted such member by General Law. In the name and on behalf of the City the Mayor shall sign all contracts, deeds, bonds and other legal instruments in which the city is a party. The Mayor or the Mayor's designate shall represent the City at all ceremonial functions of a social or patriotic character when it is desirable or appropriate to have the City represented officially thereat. The Council shall choose one of its members to serve as Mayor pro tempore during the absence of the Mayor. The Mayor shall preside over all Council meetings and shall be entitled to one vote.

In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the Mayor, the remaining Council Members shall appoint, by ~~four~~ ***three*** affirmative votes, one of their number to serve as Mayor for the remaining term of the vacated office of Mayor. If the Council does not fill the Mayoral vacancy within thirty (30) days its appointment power shall lapse and the Mayor Pro Tempore shall assume the office of Mayor. In either event, a vacancy shall then exist as to that Council seat, which shall be filled in accord with the provisions of Article 12 of this Charter.

Section 3. That Article 12 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 12 Council

~~Three~~ ***Two*** Councilmembers shall be elected at each general municipal election and shall hold office for the term of four years each from and after the Tuesday next succeeding the day of such election, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

A vacancy in an elective office shall be filled by appointment by the Council, such appointee to hold office until the next general municipal election and until a successor is elected and qualified. Such successor shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor at the general municipal election and until a successor is elected and qualified. Such successor shall be elected for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor at the general municipal election next succeeding such appointment. Should the Council fail to fill any such vacancy within thirty days after the same occurs, then it shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor; provided, however, that if the offices of a majority, or more, of the Council shall become vacant, then the City Clerk shall call a special election at once to fill the vacancies for the unexpired terms, and the same shall be conducted substantially in the manner provided for general



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municipal elections.

If any Councilmember of the City shall be absent for more than two consecutive regular meetings without good cause as determined by the Council, or shall cease to be a resident or elector of the City, or shall fail to qualify, or shall resign or be convicted of a felony, or be adjudged mentally incompetent, the Councilmember's office shall thereupon become vacant.

The Councilmembers may receive compensation as provided by ordinance, but in no case shall the compensation exceed that amount which is permitted by the State Law for General Law cities of comparable size to Pacific Grove.

No Councilmember shall be eligible to hold any other office or employment with the City except as a member of any board, commission, or committee thereof, of which the Councilmember is constituted such member by the General Law of the State.

The term of office for a Councilmember who files as a candidate for the Office of Mayor shall automatically expire on the Tuesday next succeeding the general municipal election held following that filing. The filing period for candidates to fill such Councilmember's term shall be extended an additional five days.

Section 4. That Article 13 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 13 Meetings of the Council

All meetings of the Council shall be duly noticed and shall be open to the public and shall otherwise comply with applicable state law. All meetings of the Council shall be held in the Council Chambers, except that the Council may hold meetings at another location either to (1) accommodate those who wish to attend, or to (2) accommodate an emergency situation, or to (3) accommodate the needs of a particular meeting as determined in the sole discretion of the Council. There shall be two regular meetings of the Council in each month at a day and hour by ordinance determined, and any regular meeting may be adjourned to a date and hour certain and such adjourned meeting shall be a regular meeting for all purposes; provided however, the Council may cancel one of those meetings, as circumstances may require, by ~~five (5)~~ **four (4)** affirmative votes. The Council shall adopt rules for the conduct of its proceeding and shall provide by ordinance the manner in which its special meetings may be called.

Section 5. That Article 15 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 15 Ordinances

(a) The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by the Council shall read as follows: "The Council of the City of Pacific Grove does ordain as follows:" The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by the vote of the electors of the City through the exercise of the initiative or referendum shall be: "The people of the City of Pacific Grove do ordain as follows:"

(b) The affirmative vote of ~~four~~ **three** members of the Council shall be necessary to adopt any ordinances, resolutions or claims against the City, which vote shall be taken by ayes and noes and entered upon the record, and upon the request of any member of the Council the ayes and noes shall be taken and recorded upon any vote.

(c) No ordinance shall be passed by the Council on the day of its introduction nor within five days thereafter, nor at any time other than at a regular meeting, nor until its publication at least once in the official newspaper at least three days before its adoption. Provided, that the publication of ordinances as required herein may be satisfied by publication of a summary of a proposed ordinance, if at the time the ordinance is introduced the Council directs a summary to be published. Any summary so published shall be approved by the City Attorney. A copy of the full text of proposed ordinances for which summaries are published shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk and available to the public on and after the first business day following introduction.

(d) Notwithstanding the five day waiting period required in (c), immediately hereinabove, any ordinance declared by the Council to be necessary as an emergency measure for preserving the public peace, health, safety or public welfare, and containing the reasons for its urgency, may be introduced and if passed by a vote of no fewer than ~~five~~ **four** members of the Council shall become effective immediately.

(e) A proposed ordinance may be amended or modified between the time of its introduction and the time of its final passage, provided its general scope and original purpose are retained.

(f) No ordinance or portion thereof shall be repealed, revised or amended except by ordinance, and all ordinances shall be signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

(g) Except as provided by General Law, or by this Charter, no action providing for the approval or amendment of the annual fiscal year budget, or for the acquisition, sale, lease, encumbering or disposition of real property of the City, or any interest therein, or for the levying of any tax or assessment, or for the granting of any franchise, or for the establishment or changing of zoning regulations, or for



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the imposing of any penalty, shall be taken except by ordinance.

(h) All ordinances subject to the right of referendum shall become effective 30 days following final passage. All other ordinances shall be effective immediately upon final passage. The provisions of this subarticle shall not affect the ability of the Council to adopt emergency measures pursuant to subarticle (d) of this Article.

Section 6. That Article 19 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 19 City Manager

There shall be a City Manager appointed by the affirmative vote of ~~five sevenths~~ **four fifths** of the Council who shall be the administrative head of the City government. The City Manager shall be chosen by the Council without regard to political consideration and with reference solely to qualifications for such office. The procedure for removal of the City Manager shall be prescribed by ordinance.

It shall not be necessary that the City Manager reside in the City at the time of appointment, but the City Manager shall become a resident thereof within sixty days thereafter and thereafter during incumbency shall actually reside in the City.

The powers and duties of the City Manager shall be:

- a. To see that all ordinances are enforced.
- b. To appoint all heads of departments, subordinate officials and employees, and remove the same, and have general supervision and control over the same.
- c. To exercise general supervision over all privately owned public utilities operating within the City so far as the same are subject to municipal control.
- d. To see that the provisions of all franchises, leases, contracts, permits and privileges granted by the City are fully observed and to report to the Council any violations thereof.
- e. To act as purchasing agent for the City. The City Manager shall know the exact condition of the treasury at all times, and shall approve all demands before the same have been allowed by the Council if the City Manager is satisfied that the money is lawfully due.
- f. To attend all meetings of the Council unless excused therefrom by ~~three~~ **two** members thereof or by the Mayor.
- g. To examine, or cause to be examined, without notice, the conduct, or the official account and records, of any officer or employee of the City.
- h. To keep the Council advised as to the needs of the City.
- i. To have supervision over all City property, including public buildings, parks and playgrounds.
- j. To appoint such advisory boards as the City Manager may deem desirable to advise and assist the City Manager provided the members of such boards shall receive no compensation.
- k. To cause a quarterly statement of all funds in the treasury to be submitted to the Council. Such statements shall be submitted not later than the first meeting in November, February, May and August.
- l. To assume general control of the City government and all of its branches in case of riot, insurrection or extraordinary emergency, and to be responsible for the suppression of disorders and the restoration of normal conditions.

Section 7. That Article 24 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 24 City Attorney

There shall be a City Attorney appointed by the City Council. The City Attorney shall be an attorney-at-law, admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of this State, and one who has been in actual practice in the State, for at least three years next preceding appointment. All other things being equal, an attorney who has had special training for this office or experience in municipal corporation law shall be appointed to this office, if practicable. The City Attorney shall be legal advisor of the Council and shall be available to all other City officials on City business.

The City Attorney shall prosecute all violations of City ordinances, and shall draft all ordinances, resolutions, contracts, or other legal documents or proceedings required by the Council or other officials, except as may be otherwise provided, and shall perform such legal services from time to time as the Council may require, and shall attend all meetings of the Council unless excused therefrom by ~~three~~ **two** members thereof or by the Mayor. When from any cause therefrom the City Attorney is unable to perform the duties of



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office, the City Attorney shall with the consent of the Council appoint some other qualified attorney to act temporarily as City Attorney. Whenever, in the judgment of the Council, the interests of the City require it, assistant counsel may be employed. The City Attorney shall deliver all books, records, papers, documents, and property of every description, under his or her control, owned by the City, to his or her successor in office, and shall possess such other powers, and perform such additional duties, not in conflict with this Charter, as may be prescribed by ordinance.

Section 8. That Article 26 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 26 Appointive Commissions and Boards

There shall be the Commission and Boards enumerated in this Article which shall have the powers and duties as provided herein. The appointment of persons to serve on these Commissions and Boards shall be made by the Mayor subject to the confirmation by affirmative vote of ~~four~~ **three** members of the Council.

Before making such appointments the Mayor shall consult with the Council and shall consider fully any and all nominations suggested by other members of the Council.

Members of Commissions and Boards shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. The Council, by an affirmative vote of ~~four~~ **three** of its members, may remove any member of any Commission or Board at any time during the Commission or Board member's term of office.

The term of office for members of Commissions and Boards shall be four years, but in no event shall any person serve more than three successive full terms on a single Commission or Board. For the purposes of this Article, service upon appointment to a vacated mid-term seat shall be deemed service for a full term. A person who has served for such three term period on a Commission or Board shall be eligible for reappointment to that Commission or Board after the expiration of two years.

Any person appointed to serve on such Commissions or Boards shall be a registered elector of the City and shall not hold any paid office or employment in the City government or be a member of any other Board as herein enumerated, or be a member of the City Council, except as an ex officio member without vote.

a. CITY PLANNING COMMISSION. There shall be a Planning Commission consisting of seven members, and shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Recommend to the Council the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a General Master Plan, or any part thereof, for the physical development of the City.
- (2) Exercise such functions with respect to land subdivisions, planning and zoning as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution.
- (3) Perform such other duties relating to planning and zoning as the Council may require by ordinance or resolution, or as may be prescribed by the General Laws of the State.

b. LIBRARY BOARD. There shall be a Library Board consisting of five members and shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Act in an advisory capacity to the Council and City Manager in all matters pertaining to the operation of a public library.
- (2) Recommend to the City Council the adoption of such laws, rules, and regulations as it may deem necessary for the administration and protection of the City Library.
- (3) Perform such other duties relating to the library services as the Council may require by ordinance or resolution.

c. MUSEUM BOARD. There shall be a Museum Board consisting of five members and shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Act in an advisory capacity to the Council and City Manager in all matters pertaining to the operation of a public museum.
- (2) Recommend to the City Council the adoption of such laws, rules, and regulations as it may deem necessary for the administration and protection of the City Museum.
- (3) Perform such other duties relating to the museum service as the Council may require by ordinance or resolution.

d. RECREATION BOARD. There shall be a Recreation Board consisting of five members and shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Act in an advisory capacity to the Council and City Manager in all matters pertaining to the operation of a City recreation program.
- (2) Recommend to the City Council the adoption of such laws, rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the administration and operation of a City recreation program.
- (3) Promote and stimulate public interest in a recreation program and solicit to the fullest extent possible the cooperation of school authorities and other public and private agencies interested therein.



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(4) Perform such other duties relating to the recreation program as the Council may require by ordinance or resolution.

Section 9. That Article 40 of the City Charter be amended to read as follows:

Article 40 Contracts on Public Works; Materials and Supplies

(a) In the erection, improvement and repair of all public buildings and works, in all street and sewer work, and in furnishing supplies or materials for same when the expenditure required for the same shall exceed the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), the same shall be done by contract and shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, after notice by publication in the official newspaper, and security for the due execution and performance of any such contract may be required of the successful bidder. The Council may provide by ordinance for the detailed procedure for carrying out this Article.

Provided, that the Council may reject any and all bids presented and may re-advertise in their discretion, and provided further, that after rejecting bids the Council may declare and determine by an affirmative vote of ~~five~~ **four** of its members that in its opinion the work in question may be more economically or satisfactorily performed by day labor, by either city employees or others, and after adoption of a resolution to this effect, it may proceed to have the same done in the manner stated without further observance of the foregoing provisions of this Article.

Provided, further, that such contracts likewise may be let without advertising for bids if such work shall be deemed by the Council to be of urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health or property, and shall be authorized by resolution passed by an affirmative vote of ~~five~~ **four** Council members and containing a declaration of facts constituting such urgency.

(b) The Council by ordinance shall adopt policies and procedures, including appropriate bidding regulations, governing purchases of or contracts for supplies, materials and equipment. Purchases of supplies, materials and equipment shall be made only in accordance with the adopted policies and procedures.

PART 2: BALLOT DESCRIPTION

As provided in Government Code section 34458.5, the following ballot description is in this proposed Charter Amendment measure:

CHARTER AMENDMENT

The proposed Charter Amendment measure would amend Pacific Grove City Charter Articles 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 24, 26, and 40. The amendment would change the number of elected City Council members from six to four by directing (1) in 2026 two Council members shall be elected to four-year terms, and one Council member shall be elected to a single two-year term, and (2) every two years thereafter beginning in 2028 two Council members shall be elected to four year terms; Consistent Charter changes shall clarify a quorum, majority vote and other select actions, which shall become effective when the number of Councilmembers is reduced to four (4) after the November 2028 election is certified.

Charter Article 6 would be revised to provide the reduction of the number of Councilmembers from six (6) to four (4).

Charter Article 11 would be revised to provide that in the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the Mayor, the remaining Council Members shall appoint, by three (3) affirmative votes, one of their number to serve as Mayor for the remaining term of the vacated office of Mayor, instead of four (4) votes.

Charter Article 12 would be revised to provide that two (2) Councilmembers shall be elected at each general municipal election rather than three (3).

Charter Article 13 would be revised to provide that the City Council may cancel one of its monthly meetings, by four (4) affirmative votes instead of five (5).

Charter Article 15 would be revised to provide that the affirmative vote of three (3) members of the Council shall be necessary to adopt any ordinances, resolutions or claims against the City instead of four (4).

Charter Article 19 would be revised to provide that the appointment of the City Manager shall require the affirmative vote of four fifths of the Council instead of five sevenths and to require the City Manager to attend all meetings of the Council unless excused by two (2) members instead of three (3), or by the Mayor.

Charter Article 24 would be revised to provide that the City Attorney must attend all meetings of the Council unless excused by two (2) members instead of three (3), or by the Mayor.

Charter Article 26 would be revised to provide that the appointment of persons serving on City Commissions and Boards shall be made by the Mayor subject to the confirmation by affirmative vote of three (3) members of the Council instead of four (4). Also the Council, by an affirmative vote of three (3) of its members, may remove any member of any commission, instead of four (4).



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Charter Article 40 would be revised to provide that the Council after rejecting all bids may declare and determine by an affirmative vote of four (4) of its members instead of five (5) that in its opinion the work in question may be more economically or satisfactorily performed by day labor, by either city employees or others, and after adoption of a resolution, it may proceed to have the proposed work done without further observance of the foregoing provisions of Article 40.

Article 40 would also be revised to allow the Council to approve a contract without advertising for bids with a finding of urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health or property, with an affirmative vote of four (4) Council members instead of five (5).

PART 3: IMPLEMENTATION

In the event this Charter Amendment measure is approved:

- A. Exclusively for the election to be held in November 2026, two councilmembers shall be elected and hold office for a term of four years and one additional councilmember shall be elected and hold office for a term of two years, resulting in a four (4) member City Council and Mayor (5 member) local legislative body after the November 2028 election is certified
- B. To further effectuate the purposes of this Charter Amendment measure and the direction of the voters, the City Council shall amend the following sections of the Pacific Grove Municipal Code - Sections 2.04.070 (c)(5), 3.02.030 and 3.04.030, and such other sections as needed, to modify the number of required council votes for actions referenced in those provisions as may be consistent with this measure.
- C. This Charter Amendment measure shall be submitted to the Secretary of State pursuant to Government Code sections 34459 through 34461, inclusive.

PART 4: EFFECTIVE DATES

Section 3(a) of Article XI of the California Constitution provides:

For its own government, a county or city may adopt a charter by majority vote of its electors voting on the question. The charter is effective when filed with the Secretary of State. A charter may be amended, revised, or repealed in the same manner. A charter, amendment, revision, or repeal thereof shall be published in the official state statutes. County charters adopted pursuant to this section shall supersede any existing charter and all laws inconsistent therewith. The provisions of a charter are the law of the State and have the force and effect of legislative enactments.

This Charter Amendment measure shall become effective in the manner allowed by law.

Each Charter Article amendment, provided herein, shall become effective and implemented in conjunction with the following election dates:

1. Amendment of Charter Article 6 - November 7, 2028.
2. Amendment of Charter Article 11 - November 7, 2028.
3. Amendment of Charter Article 12 - November 3, 2026.
4. Amendment of Charter Article 13 - November 7, 2028.
5. Amendment of Charter Article 15 - November 7, 2028.
6. Amendment of Charter Article 19 - November 7, 2028.
7. Amendment of Charter Article 24 - November 7, 2028.
8. Amendment of Charter Article 26 - November 7, 2028.
9. Amendment of Charter Article 40 - November 7, 2028.

PART 5: SEVERABILITY

It is the intent of the people that the provisions of the Charter Amendment measure are severable and that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this charter amendment is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Charter Amendment measure. The people of the City of Pacific Grove hereby declare that they would have passed this Charter Amendment measure and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.