

Ballot Title

CAPTION

Amends Charter: Deletes outdated, redundant requirements to approve utility franchises.

QUESTION

Shall Charter be amended to streamline Council approval of utility franchise agreements and remove outdated, burdensome and redundant requirements?

SUMMARY

The Charter Commission proposed a measure to streamline the approval of franchise agreements, which authorize a utility to use City streets to provide residents with utility services.

Currently, City Council must approve franchises using a lengthy and outdated process described in Chapter 10, Article 2 of the Charter.

If the measure is approved, the following requirements would be deleted:

- Redundant filing with Auditor
- Objection process
- Publication of lengthy franchise in newspaper
- Extended time between reading of ordinance to approve franchise
- Extended effective date
- Written acceptance by franchisee

Instead, Council would grant franchises by ordinance, in accordance with standard ordinance publication, public testimony, adoption and effective date provisions in Charter and code. Other provisions.

The City Budget Office determined the measure has no direct financial impact.