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37 Proposition A: Shall the City Charter be amended to provide that the nomination
38 method, term of service, and process for removal of the Planning Commission
39 members be determined by ordinance?

40 Proposition B: Shall the City Charter be amended to make non-substantive
41 corrections to grammar, typographical errors, capitalization, punctuation, and
42 sentence structure; and to change or remove charter language that is obsolete?

43 **PART 3** – If Proposition A is approved by the majority of voters voting at the
44 election, the City Charter is amended to read as follows:

45 **ARTICLE X. – PLANNING.**

46 **§ 2. - THE PLANNING COMMISSION — ORGANIZATION.**

47 There shall be established a planning commission which shall consist of
48 citizens of the City of Austin who must be registered voters in the city and must
49 have resided within the city for one year next preceding their appointment. The
50 planning commission shall have a number of members equal to the number of
51 members on the council plus two ~~[(2)]~~additional members, a minimum of two-
52 thirds of the members who shall be lay members not directly or indirectly
53 connected with real estate and land development. The city manager, the
54 chairperson of the zoning board of adjustment, the director of public works and the
55 president of the board of trustees of the Austin Independent School District shall
56 serve as ex officio members. The members of said commission shall be appointed
57 by the council for a term of up to two ~~[(2)]~~years~~[-five (5) members to be appointed~~
58 ~~in every odd-numbered year and four (4) members in every even-numbered year]~~.
59 The timing of appointments, as well as a process for removing commissioners prior
60 to expiration of a term, shall be established by ordinance. The commission shall
61 elect a chairperson from among its membership and shall meet not less than once
62 each month. Vacancies in an unexpired term shall be filled by the council for the
63 remainder of the term.

64 **PART 4.** If Proposition B is approved by the majority of voters voting at the
65 election, the City Charter is amended to read as follows:

66 **ARTICLE I. - INCORPORATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, POWERS.**

67 **§ 1. - INCORPORATION.**

68 The inhabitants of the City of Austin, ~~[Travis County,]~~ Texas, within its
69 corporate limits, as established by Chapter 90, page 634, Special Laws of Texas,

1909, 31st Legislature, and as extended by ordinances of the City of Austin enacted subsequent thereto, shall continue to be and are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, in perpetuity, under the name the "City of Austin," hereinafter referred to as the "city," with such powers, privileges, rights, duties, and immunities as are herein provided.

§ 3. - GENERAL POWERS.

The city shall have all the powers granted to cities by the constitution [~~Constitution~~] and laws of the State of Texas, together with all the implied powers necessary to carry into execution such granted powers. The city may use a corporate seal; may sue and be sued; may contract and be contracted with; may cooperate with the government of the State of Texas or any agency or political subdivision thereof, or with the federal government or any agency thereof, to accomplish any lawful purpose for the advancement of the interest, welfare, health, morals, comfort, safety, and convenience of the city and its inhabitants; may acquire property within or without its corporate limits for any municipal purposes in fee simple, or in any lesser interest or estate, by purchase, gift, devise, lease or condemnation, and, subject to the provisions of this Charter, may sell, lease, mortgage, hold, manage, and control such property as may now or hereafter be owned by it; may pass ordinances and enact such regulations as may be expedient for the maintenance of the good government, order, and peace of the city and the welfare, health, morals, comfort, safety, and convenience of its inhabitants. In addition to the powers enumerated herein, and subject only to the limitations imposed by the state constitution, the state laws, and this Charter, the city shall have, without the necessity of its express enumeration in this Charter, each and every power which, by virtue of Article XI, Section 5, of the Constitution of Texas, the people of the city are empowered by election to grant to or confer upon the city by expressly and specifically granting and enumerating the same herein.

§ 4. - STREETS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY.

The city shall have exclusive dominion, control, and jurisdiction[;] in, upon, over, and under the public streets, sidewalks, alleys, highways, public squares, and public ways within the corporate limits of the city, and in, upon, over, and under all public property of the city. With respect to each and every public street, sidewalk, alley, highway, public square, or other public way within the corporate limits of the city, the city shall have the power to establish, maintain, alter, abandon, or vacate the same; to regulate, establish, or change the grade thereof; to control and regulate the use thereof; and to abate and remove in a summary manner any encroachment thereon.

107 **§ 5. - STREET DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.**

108 The city shall have the power to develop and improve, or cause to be
109 developed and improved, any and all public streets, sidewalks, alleys, highways, and
110 other public ways within the corporate limits of the city by laying out, opening,
111 narrowing, widening, straightening, extending and establishing building lines along
112 the same; by purchasing, condemning, and taking property therefor; by filling,
113 grading, raising, lowering, paving, repaving, and repairing, in a permanent manner,
114 the same; and by constructing, reconstructing, altering, repairing, and realigning
115 curbs, gutters, drains, sidewalks, culverts, and other appurtenances and incidentals
116 in connection with such development and improvements. The city may make or
117 cause to be made any one or more of the kinds or classes of development and
118 improvement authorized hereinabove, or any combination or parts thereof. The cost
119 of such development and improvement shall be paid by the city, or partly by the city
120 and partly by assessments levied against the property abutting thereon and the
121 owners thereof, and such assessments may be levied in any amounts and under any
122 procedure now or hereafter permitted by state law.

123 If improvements be ordered constructed in any part of the area between and
124 under rails, tracks, double-tracks, turnouts and switches, and two [~~(2)~~] feet on each
125 side thereof, of any railway[;] using, occupying, or crossing any such highway,
126 portion or portions thereof, ordered improved, then the city council shall have power
127 to assess the whole cost of improvements in such area against such railway, and shall
128 have power, by ordinance, to levy a special tax upon such railway, and its road-bed,
129 ties, rails, fixtures, rights and franchises, which tax shall constitute a lien thereon
130 superior to any other lien or claim except state, county, and city ad valorem taxes,
131 and which may be enforced either by sale of said property in the manner provided
132 by law for the collection of ad valorem taxes by the city, or by suit in any court
133 having jurisdiction. The ordinance levying such tax shall prescribe the time, terms
134 and conditions of payment thereof, and the rate of interest, not to exceed eight
135 percent [~~(8%)~~] per annum, and same, if not paid when due, shall be collectible,
136 together with interest, to expenses of collection and reasonable attorney's fees, if
137 incurred. The city council shall have power to cause to be issued assignable
138 certificates in evidence of any such assessments.

139 As an alternate and cumulative method of developing, improving, and paving
140 any and all public streets, sidewalks, alleys, highways, and other public ways within
141 the corporate limits, the city shall have the power and authority to proceed in
142 accordance with Chapter 106, page 489, Acts 1927, Fortieth Legislature, First Called
143 Session, as now or hereafter amended, to to adopt plans and specifications pursuant
144 thereto; to pay to the contractor, the successful bidder, in cash, that part of the cost

which may be assessed against the abutting property and the owners thereof; to reimburse itself for the amount paid such contractor by levying assessments against the abutting property and the owners thereof, after the hearing and notice prescribed in the aforesaid statutes, in an amount permitted by said statutes and not in excess of the enhancement in value of such property occasioned by the improvements; and to issue assignable certificates in favor of the city for such assessments, said certificates to be enforceable in the manner prescribed by the aforesaid statutes. The city shall likewise have the power to make any such development, improvement or paving with its own forces if, in the opinion of the council, the work can be done more expeditiously or economically, and in such event the city shall have the power to reimburse itself for the cost of such improvement in the same amount and in the same manner as if the work had been performed by a successful bidding contractor.

§ 6. - ANNEXATION FOR ALL PURPOSES.

The city [City] council [Council] shall have the power by ordinance to fix the boundary limits of the City of Austin; and to provide for the alteration, reduction, and the extension of said boundary limits, and the annexation of additional territory lying adjacent to the city, with or without the consent of the territory and inhabitants annexed. Before the city [City] may institute annexation or disannexation proceedings, the city [City] council [Council] shall provide an opportunity for all interested persons to be heard at a public hearing. Prior notice of such hearings shall be published in accordance with state law in a newspaper having general circulation in the city [City] and in the territory proposed to be annexed. Upon the final passage of any such ordinance, the boundary limits of the city [City] shall thereafter be fixed in such ordinance; and when any additional territory has been so annexed, same shall be a part of the City of Austin, and the property situated therein shall bear its pro rata part of the taxes levied by the city, and the inhabitants thereof shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of all the citizens, and shall be bound by the acts, ordinances, resolutions, and regulations of the city [City].

§ 7. - LIMITED PURPOSE ANNEXATION.

In addition to the power to annex additional territory for all purposes, the city [City] shall have the power, by ordinance, to fix, alter, and extend the corporate boundary limits of the city [City] for the limited purposes of planning, zoning, health, and safety and to annex for such limited purposes additional territory lying adjacent to the city [City], with or without the consent of the property owners or inhabitants of such annexed territory; provided, however, that no such territory which lies farther than five miles from the corporate boundary limits enclosing the territory which is a part of the city [City] for all purposes, as those corporate

182 boundary limits are now or may hereafter be established, shall be annexed for any
183 limited purpose or purposes. Whenever the boundary limits annexed for such limited
184 purposes are not coterminous with the corporate boundary limits enclosing the
185 territory which a part of the city [City] for all purposes, such boundary limits of the
186 limited purpose territory shall be known as "Limited Purpose Boundary Limits."
187 Every ordinance by which territory is to be annexed to the city [City] for limited
188 purposes shall state clearly the limited purpose or purposes for which it is being
189 annexed, and shall be published one time, in a newspaper of general circulation in
190 the city [City] and in the form in which it is to be finally adopted, not less than
191 30~~[thirty (30)]~~ days prior to its final passage.

192 When any additional territory has been annexed for said limited purpose or
193 purposes, it shall be a part of the city for such limited purpose or purposes only.
194 However, in dealing with the property and inhabitants thereof, the city [City] shall
195 have every power which it otherwise possesses and which is reasonable and
196 expedient for the accomplishment of the limited purpose or purposes for which such
197 property is annexed, and the power of the city [City] to deal with the property and
198 inhabitants of such limited purpose territory shall include the powers enumerated in
199 the next two ~~(2)~~ succeeding sentences but shall not be limited or restricted thereto.
200 With regard to territory annexed for the limited purpose of planning or zoning, the
201 city [City] shall have the power to control and regulate the use of property and the
202 density of structures, to require compliance with reasonable zoning regulations, to
203 control and regulate the subdivision of property and to control and regulate the
204 construction of buildings. With regard to territory annexed for the limited purpose
205 or purposes of health or safety, the city [City] shall have the power to adopt all
206 reasonable regulations pertaining to health and safety and to require compliance with
207 such regulations. Every inhabitant of territory annexed for limited purpose or
208 purposes, who is otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to vote in city [City] elections
209 on every issue where the question[s] is the election or recall of a city [City] council
210 member or the amendment of this Charter, and every such inhabitant shall be deemed
211 to be a citizen of the city [City] in connection with any ordinance, regulation, or
212 action which is, or is alleged to be, applicable to him or her or his or her property
213 because of such limited purpose annexation, but will not be eligible to run for any
214 office in the City of Austin. The city [City] shall have no power to levy any tax for
215 municipal purposes on either the property or ~~[of]~~ the inhabitants of territory annexed
216 for limited purpose or purposes, and no funds of the city [City] shall be spent in such
217 territory except where reasonable and expedient for the accomplishment of the
218 limited purpose or purposes for which the territory is annexed; but the city [City]
219 may collect reasonable charges from property owners and inhabitants of such

territory for services rendered by the city [City] in the accomplishment of the limited purpose or purposes for which the territory is annexed.

ARTICLE II. - THE COUNCIL.

§ 3. - REDISTRICTING.

(A) For purposes of this section, the following terms are defined:

(4) PANEL means the Applicant Review Panel of three qualified, independent auditors that screens applicants for the commission [Commission].

(B) In 2013 and thereafter in each year following the year in which the national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the beginning of each decade, the commission [Commission] shall adjust the boundary lines of the 10 single-member districts in conformance with the standards and process set forth in this article. The commission [Commission] shall be fully established no later than July 1, 2013, and thereafter no later than March 1 in each year ending in the number (1). The commission [Commission] shall not draw district lines at any other time, except if the districts must be redrawn because of a judicial decision invalidating the then existing district plan, in whole or in part, or the date of the city election is moved. If the date of the city election is moved, then the dates in this article shall be adjusted to ensure the commission has sufficient time to draw the lines prior to the election date.

(C) The commission shall:

- (1) conduct an open and transparent process enabling full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines;
- (2) draw district lines according to the redistricting criteria specified in this section; and
- (3) conduct themselves with integrity and fairness. This selection process is designed to produce a commission that is independent from influence by the city [City] council [Council] and is reasonably representative of this city's diversity.

(D) The commission shall consist of 14 members.

251 (1) Each commission member shall be a voter who has been continuously
252 registered in the City of Austin for five or more years immediately
253 preceding the date of his or her appointment. Each commission
254 member, except the student member described below, shall have voted
255 in at least three of the last five City of Austin general elections
256 immediately preceding his or her application. One commission member
257 shall be a student duly enrolled in a community college or university in
258 the City of Austin and who resides and is registered to vote in the City
259 of Austin.

260 (2) The term of office of each member of the commission expires upon the
261 appointment of the first member of the succeeding commission in the
262 year following the year in which the national census is taken.

263 (3) Nine members of the commission shall constitute a quorum. Nine or
264 more affirmative votes shall be required for any official action,
265 including approval of a final plan establishing the boundaries of any
266 council district.

267 (4) Each commission member shall apply this section in a manner that is
268 impartial and that reinforces public confidence in the integrity of the
269 redistricting process. A commission member shall be ineligible, for a
270 period of 10 years beginning from the date of appointment, to hold
271 elective public office for the City of Austin. A member of the
272 commission shall be ineligible, for a period of three years beginning
273 from the date of appointment, to hold appointive public office for the
274 City of Austin, to serve as paid staff for, or as a paid consultant to, the
275 City of Austin, the city [City] council [Council] or any member of the
276 city [City] council [Council], or to receive a noncompetitively bid
277 contract with the City of Austin. This three year ban on having a paid
278 consultancy or entering noncompetitively bid contracts applies to the
279 member individually and all entities for which the member is a
280 controlling person.

281 (E) The commission shall establish the boundaries of the council districts for the
282 City of Austin in a plan using the following criteria as set forth in the following
283 order of priority:

284
285 (1) districts shall comply with the United States Constitution. Each council
286 district shall have reasonably equal population with other districts,

except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act or is allowable by law.

(2) districts shall comply with the federal Voting Rights Act (52[42] U.S.C. Sec. 10101[1971] and following) and any other requirement of federal or state law.

(3) districts shall be geographically contiguous.

(4) the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any of the preceding subsections. A community of interest is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(5) to the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations.

(6) to the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn using the boundaries of existing election precincts.

(7) to the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn using geographically identifiable boundaries.

(G) By December 1, 2013, and thereafter by November 1 in each year ending in the number one [~~4~~], the commission shall adopt a final plan for the City of Austin specifically describing the district boundaries for each of the council districts prescribed above. Upon adoption, the commission shall certify the plan to the city [City] council [~~Council~~]. The city council may not change the plan. The plan shall have the force and effect of law.

(1) The commission shall issue a report that explains the basis on which the commission made its decisions in achieving compliance with the criteria listed above and shall include definitions of the terms and standards used in drawing the final plan.

(2) If the commission does not adopt a final plan by the dates in this section, the city attorney for the City of Austin shall immediately petition state court for an order prescribing the boundary lines of the single-member districts in accordance with the redistricting criteria and requirements set forth in this section~~[Section]~~. The plan prescribed by the court shall be used for all subsequent city council elections until a final plan is adopted by the commission to replace it.

(H) The commission has the sole legal standing to defend any action regarding a certified final map, and shall inform the city ~~[City]~~ council ~~[Council]~~ if it determines that funds or other resources provided for the operation of the commission are not adequate. The city ~~[City]~~ council ~~[Council]~~ shall provide adequate funding to defend any action regarding a certified map. The commission has sole authority to determine whether the city attorney or other legal counsel retained by the commission at its discretion shall represent the commission in defense of a certified final map.

(I) Commission Selection Process.

(1) No later than December 1, 2012, and thereafter by June 1 in each year ending in the number zero, the City of Austin Auditor shall initiate and widely publicize an application process, open to all registered City of Austin voters who meet the requirements of subdivision 3(D)(1) above, in a manner that promotes a large, diverse (by race, ethnicity, gender, and geography) and qualified commissioner~~[Commissioner]~~ applicant pool. The City Auditor shall take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that the pool has the requisite numbers, diversity, and qualifications. This process shall remain open until February 1, 2013, and thereafter until September 30 in each year ending in the number zero.

(2) No later than December 1, 2012, and thereafter by June 1 in each year ending in the number zero, the City of Austin Auditor shall initiate and widely publicize an application process, open to all qualified independent auditors that reside in the City of Austin and who meet the requirements of subdivision 3(A)(5) above, in a manner that promotes a large pool of applicants and applicant diversity by race, ethnicity, gender, and geography. This process shall remain open until February 1, 2013 and thereafter until September 1 in each year ending in the number zero.

361 (3) The City of Austin Auditor shall remove from the commissioner or
362 independent auditor applicant pool any person with conflicts of interest
363 including:

364 (a) Within the five years immediately preceding the date of
365 application, either the applicant or their spouse, shall have done
366 any of the following:

367 (i) been appointed to, elected to, or have been a candidate for
368 state or city office.

369 (ii) served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a
370 political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate
371 for elective state, county or city office.

372 (iii) been a registered state or local lobbyist.

373 (iv) contributed or bundled \$1,000 or more in aggregate to
374 candidates for City of Austin elective office in the last city
375 election.

376 (b) A person who has been, within the three years immediately
377 preceding the date of application: a paid employee of the City of
378 Austin; person performing paid services under a professional or
379 political contract to the City of Austin, to the city [City] council
380 [Council], or to any member of the city [City] council [Council];
381 any controlling person of any such consultant; or a spouse of any
382 of the foregoing.

383 (4) No later than February 15, 2013, and no later than October 1 in each
384 year ending in the number zero, the City [~~of Austin~~] Auditor shall
385 review the auditor review panel applicants and remove those who do
386 not meet the prescribed qualifications in subdivision 3(A)(5) or have
387 conflicts of interest as defined by subdivision 3(I)(3). No later than
388 February 15, 2013, and no later than October 1 in each year ending in
389 the number zero, the City [~~of Austin~~] Auditor shall at a public meeting
390 randomly draw the names of three qualified independent auditors from
391 a pool consisting of all qualified independent auditors, without conflicts
392 of interest, that have applied to serve on the Applicant Review Panel.
393 After the drawing, the City Auditor shall notify the three qualified
394 independent auditors whose names have been drawn that they have
395 been selected to serve on the panel. If any of the three qualified

independent auditors declines to serve on the panel or is disqualified because of any conflict of interest prescribed above in subdivision 3(I)(2), the City [~~of Austin~~] Auditor shall resume the random drawing at a public meeting as soon as possible until three qualified independent auditors who meet the requirements of this section have agreed to serve on the panel.

(5) No later than March 1, 2013, and thereafter no later than October 31 in each year ending in the number zero, the City [~~of Austin~~] Auditor shall have reviewed and removed individuals with conflicts of interest as defined in subdivision 3(I)(3), or who fail to meet the qualification prescribed in subdivision 3(D)(1), from among the commission applicants, and then shall publicize the names in the applicant pool and provide copies of their applications to the Applicant Review Panel.

(6) No later than May 1, 2013, and thereafter by January 15 in each year ending in the number one, the Applicant Review Panel shall select a pool of 60 applicants from among the qualified applicants. These persons shall be the most qualified applicants on the basis of relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, residency in various parts of the city [~~City~~], and appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography. The members of the Applicant Review Panel shall not communicate directly or indirectly with any elected member of the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~], or their representatives, about any matter related to the nomination process or any applicant prior to the presentation by the panel of the pool of recommended applicants to the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~].

(7) No later than May 2, 2013, and by January 16 in each year ending in the number one thereafter, the Applicant Review Panel shall submit its pool of 60 recommended applicants to the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~]. Each member of the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~] within five days in writing may strike up to one applicant from the pool of applicants. No reason need be given for a strike. Any applicant struck by any member of the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~] must be removed from the pool of applicants. No later than May 8, 2013, and thereafter by January 22 in each year ending in one, the Applicant Review Panel shall submit the pool of remaining applicants to the City [~~of Austin~~] Auditor.

(8) No later than May 9, 2013, and thereafter by January 23 in each year ending in the number one, the City [~~of Austin~~] Auditor shall randomly

draw at a public meeting eight names from the remaining pool of applicants. These eight individuals shall serve on the commission[~~Citizens Redistricting Commission~~].

- (9) No later than June 30, 2013, and thereafter by February 28 in each year ending in the number one, the eight commissioners shall review the remaining names in the pool of applicants and, from the remaining applicants in that pool, shall appoint six applicants to the commission. These six appointees must be approved by at least five affirmative votes among the eight commissioners. These six appointees shall be chosen to ensure that the commission reflects the diversity of the City of Austin, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. However, it is not intended that formulas or specific ratios be applied for this purpose. Applicants shall also be chosen based on relevant analytical skills and ability to be impartial. As for geographic diversity, for the first redistricting in 2013, the eight commissioners shall appoint the remaining six members to ensure geographic diversity and that at least three commissioners come from each of the four existing Travis County Commissioners precincts[~~districts~~], to the extent feasible with the remaining six open seats. As for the redistricting in each year ending in the number one thereafter, the eight commissioners shall ensure that at least one commission member resides in each of the then current council districts, to the extent feasible with the remaining six open seats.

- (10) Once constituted, the commission shall conduct hearings and adopt a plan for the boundaries of the city's council districts as required by the Charter[~~charter~~] of the City of Austin.

(J) Citizens Redistricting Commission Vacancy, Removal, Resignation, or Absence.

- (1) In the event of substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office, or inability to discharge the duties of office, a member of the commission, having been served written notice and provided with an opportunity for a response, may be removed by a vote of 10 of the commissioners[~~Commissioners~~].
- (2) Any vacancy, whether created by removal, resignation, or absence, in the 14 commission positions shall be filled by the commission[~~Commission~~] within 15 days after the vacancy occurs, from the remaining pool of

469 applicants and in compliance with the applicant requirements of
470 subdivision 3(I)(8). Nine members must agree to any appointment.

471 (K) The activities of the commission~~[Citizens Redistricting Commission]~~ are
472 subject to all of the following:

473 (1) the commission shall comply with all state and city requirements for
474 open meetings.

475 (2) the records of the commission and all data considered by the
476 commission are public records that will be made available in a manner
477 that ensures immediate and widespread public access.

478 (3) commission members and commission staff may not communicate
479 with, or receive communications about, redistricting matters from
480 anyone outside of a public hearing. This paragraph does not prohibit
481 communication between commission members, commission staff
482 (which shall exclude staff of any council members), legal counsel, and
483 consultants retained by the commission that is otherwise permitted by
484 state and city open meeting requirements.

485 (4) the commission shall select one of its members to serve as the chair and
486 one to serve as vice chair. The chair and vice chair shall remain voting
487 members of the commission.

488 (5) the commission shall hire commission staff, legal counsel, and
489 consultants as needed; provided, however, that compensation of such
490 persons shall be limited to the period in which the commission is active.
491 The commission shall establish clear criteria for the hiring and removal
492 of these individuals, communication protocols, and a code of conduct.
493 The commission shall apply the conflicts of interest listed in
494 subdivision 3(I)(3) to the hiring of staff, legal counsel, and consultants.
495 The commission shall require that at least one of the legal counsel hired
496 by the commission has demonstrated extensive experience and
497 expertise in implementation and enforcement of the federal Voting
498 Rights Act of 1965 (52[42] U.S.C. Sec. 10101[1974] and following).
499 The commission shall make hiring, removal, or contracting decisions
500 on staff, legal counsel, and consultants by nine or more affirmative
501 votes.

502 (6) notwithstanding any other provision of law, no employer shall
503 discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, coerce, or retaliate against

any employee by reason of such employee's membership on the commission or attendance or scheduled attendance at any meeting of the commission.

- (7) the commission shall establish and implement an open hearing process for public input and deliberation that shall be subject to public notice and promoted through an extensive outreach program to solicit broad public participation in the redistricting public review process. The hearing process shall begin with hearings to receive public input before the commission votes and approves a preliminary redistricting plan. In 2013, there shall be at least two such public hearings, before the commission votes on a preliminary plan, in each of the four Travis County Commissioner p[P]recincts, and in each year ending in the number one thereafter, there shall be at least one such public hearing, before the commission votes on a preliminary redistricting plan in each of the then existing 10 council districts. In addition, these hearings shall be supplemented with all other appropriate activities to further increase opportunities for the public to observe and participate in the review process.

Following the commission's vote approving the preliminary plan, there shall be at least four public hearings, geographically dispersed, with at least one hearing in each of the four Travis County Commissioners' precincts, and each hearing shall be held on a different date. The commission also shall display the approved preliminary plan for written public comment in a manner designed to achieve the widest public access reasonably possible. Written public comment shall be taken for at least 14 days from the date of public display of the approved preliminary plan. The commission then shall vote on a proposed final plan and then it shall hold two subsequent public hearings, one north of Lady Bird Lake and one south of Lady Bird Lake and take at least five days of written public comments. The commission~~[Commission]~~ then shall be finished with all hearings and adopt a final plan by no later than December 1, 2013, and thereafter by November 1 in each year ending in the number one.

- (8) members of the commission shall not be compensated for their service. Members of the panel and the commission are eligible for reimbursement of reasonable and necessary personal expenses incurred in connection with the duties performed pursuant to this act.

(9) the city [City] council [Council] shall appropriate sufficient funds to meet the operational cost of the commission and the cost of any outreach program to solicit broad public participation in the redistricting process.

(10) the commission shall remain inactive except when necessary to comply with its duties under this ordinance and the Charter[echarter] of the City of Austin.

§ 4. – REPEALED[TRANSITION].

~~[(A) This section provides for a transition from the seven member council elected at large to the 11 member council provided by this article. Except as provided in this section, and after the transition as prescribed in this section, the mayor and council members shall serve three year terms.]~~

~~[(B) The three council members elected at large in May 2011 shall serve three-year terms. The mayor and three council members elected at large in the May 2012 general election shall serve two year terms.]~~

~~[(C) A general election shall be held for the council in May 2014, at which the mayor and the 10 council members elected from council districts shall be elected.]~~

~~[(D) As soon as practicable after assuming office after the May 2014 general election, the City Clerk shall divide at a public hearing the council members elected from council districts into two classes by drawing lots. Class One shall consist of five council members who shall serve initial two year terms. Class Two shall consist of five council members who shall serve three year terms.]~~

~~[(E) At the May 2016 general election, the five Class One council members elected by districts will be elected for three year terms.]~~

~~[(F) At the May 2017 general election, the Mayor and five Class Two council members elected by districts will be elected for three year terms, marking the end of the transition period.]~~

§ 5. - TERM LIMITS.

(A) Except as provided in subsection[Subsection] (C), a person may not be elected to, or serve in the office of mayor[Mayor], for more than two

consecutive terms, and a person who has held the office of mayor[~~Mayor~~] for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected mayor[~~Mayor~~] may not be elected to the office of mayor[~~Mayor~~] more than once in succession.

(B) Except as provided in subsection[~~Subsection~~] (C), a person may not [~~shall~~] be elected to, or serve on, the city [City] council [~~Council~~] in a position other than mayor[~~Mayor~~] for more than two consecutive terms, and a person who has held a position other than mayor[~~Mayor~~] for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected to the position may not be elected to a position other than mayor[~~Mayor~~] more than once in succession.

(C) A person subject to a term limit with respect to an office may become a candidate for the office and serve if elected, if the person's application to be a candidate for the office is accompanied by a petition requesting that the person be authorized to be a candidate and the petition is signed by at least five percent of the qualified voters of the territory from which the office is elected.

§ 6. - VACANCIES.

Where a vacancy in any place on the council shall occur, the vacant place shall be filled by a special election, and, where necessary, by a run-off election, in the same manner as provided in this Charter for the regular election of a council_member. Such special election shall be held on the next available state uniform election date following the creation of the vacancy, and the run-off election shall be held according to state law following the preceding election; provided, however, that where a vacancy shall occur within [~~ninety~~-(90)] days of a regular election, no special election to fill the vacancy shall be called, unless more than one vacancy occurs.

§ 10. - MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM.

The council_member elected to and occupying the place designated "mayor" shall be the mayor of the City of Austin. At its first meeting following each regular election of council_members, the council shall, by election, designate one of its number as mayor pro tem, who shall serve in such capacity at[~~during~~] the pleasure of the council. The mayor shall preside at all meetings of the council and shall be recognized as head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes, for the purpose of receiving service of civil process, and for military purposes, but he or she shall have no regular administrative duties. The mayor, as a member of the council,

shall be entitled to vote upon all matters considered by the council, but shall have no veto power. The mayor pro tem shall act as mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor, and shall have power to perform every act the mayor could perform if present.

§ 12. - MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

The council shall meet in regular session at the City Hall at least once each week at such time as may be prescribed by ordinance, unless otherwise ordered by the council for reasons to be documented in~~spread upon~~ the minutes. Special meetings of the council shall be called by the city clerk upon written request of the mayor or two ~~(2)~~ members of the council. All meetings shall be open to the public except as may be authorized by the laws of the State of Texas.

§ 14. - PROCEDURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION.

The council shall legislate by ordinance only, and the enacting clause of every ordinance shall be, "BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN." Before any ordinance shall be adopted, the city attorney shall approve such ordinance in writing or shall file with the city clerk his or her written legal objections thereto. Every ordinance enacted by the council shall be signed by the mayor, mayor pro tem, or by two council members, and shall be filed with and recorded by the city clerk before the same shall become effective. Unless otherwise provided by law or this Charter, no ordinance shall become effective until the expiration of 10 days following the date of its final passage, except where an ordinance relating to the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, is adopted as an emergency measure by the favorable votes of at least two-thirds of the council members and contains a statement of the nature of the emergency.

§ 16. - CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Within six ~~(6)~~ months after the effective date of this section, the council shall cause all general ordinances of the city to be compiled and printed in code form. For the purpose of this section, general ordinances shall be deemed to be those ordinances of a permanent or continuing nature which affect the residents of the city at large. Every general ordinance enacted subsequent to the original codification required above shall be enacted as an amendment to the code. After the original codification, the council shall have the power to cause all general ordinances to be recodified and reprinted whenever in its discretion such is deemed desirable, and it shall be mandatory upon the council to cause all general ordinances to be recodified and reprinted before the expiration of any 10~~ten (10)~~ consecutive years following

the last preceding codification or recodification. When adopted by the council, the printed codes of general ordinances contemplated by this section shall be in full force and effect without the necessity of such codes or any part thereof being published in any newspaper.

ARTICLE III. - ELECTIONS.

§ 2. - ELECTION DATE; COUNCIL TERMS; ELECTION BY MAJORITY AND RUN-OFF ELECTIONS.

(A) The city's general election shall be held on the November uniform election date authorized by state law in even-numbered years. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the regular term of the mayor and council members is four years. Council terms shall be staggered so that a general election is held every two years, and half, or as near to half as is practical, of the council is elected at each election.

~~[(1) The council shall provide by ordinance for the transition from three-year terms to four-year terms and for staggering the terms of council members. The ordinance may provide for drawing lots for initial terms or temporarily lengthening or shortening individual council member's terms to accomplish the transition. If a council member's term is shortened by more than a year, for the purpose of the transition, that shortened term does not count as a term for the purpose of Article II Section 5 of this Charter. When this paragraph has served its purpose, it expires, and need not be reprinted in future versions of the Charter.]~~

(C) The regular term of a council member begins on the date set by ordinance. A council member may qualify for office on that date or as soon thereafter as practicable. In the case of a special election to fill an unexpired term, the person elected may qualify and assume office as soon as practicable after the canvass of the election.

§ 3. - REGULATION OF ELECTIONS.

All elections shall be held in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas regulating the holding of municipal elections and in accordance with the ordinances adopted by the council for the conduct of elections. ~~The~~~~[Provided that the]~~ council shall appoint the election judges and other election officials. Voting precincts shall be established by ordinance and may be altered from time to time in like manner.

§ 4. - FILING OF CANDIDATES.

Any qualified person who desires to become a candidate for election to a place on the council shall file with the city clerk, at least ~~45~~⁴⁵ days prior to the election day, an application for his or her name to appear on the ballot. Such application shall be accompanied by a filing fee of ~~\$500.00~~^{\$500.00} [five hundred dollars (\$500.00)]. ~~Such~~ [If the petition is sufficient to satisfy statutory requirements, the] filing fee may be reduced by ~~\$1.00~~^{\$1.00} [one dollar (\$1.00)] per signature for each registered voter who signs a petition requesting that the name of the candidate be placed on the ballot, if such petition is sufficient to satisfy statutory requirements. In case of a district position, the petition shall be signed by registered voters residing in the particular district. Such application shall clearly designate by number the place on the council to which the candidate seeks election and shall contain a sworn statement by the candidate that he or she is fully qualified under the laws of Texas and the provisions of this Charter to hold the office he or she seeks.

§ 6. - CANVASSING ELECTION AND DECLARING RESULTS.

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered by the election judges to the city clerk not later than ~~12~~¹² hours after the closing of the polls. The council shall canvass the returns and declare the official results of the election in accordance with state law. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the council, by precinct totals for each candidate.

§ 8. - LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.

(A) Limits On Contributions To Candidates.

(1) No candidate for ~~mayor~~^{Mayor} or ~~city~~^{City} council ~~[Council]~~ and his or her campaign committee shall accept campaign contributions in excess of \$300 per contributor per election from any person, except for the candidate and small-donor political committees. The amount of the contribution limit shall be modified each year with the adoption of the budget to increase or decrease in accordance with the most recently published federal government, Bureau of Labor Statistics Indicator, Consumer Price Index (CPI-W U.S. City Average) U.S. City Average. The most recently published Consumer Price Index on May 13, 2006, shall be used as a base of 100 and the adjustment thereafter will be to the nearest \$50.00.

(2) Each candidate may authorize, establish, administer, or control only one campaign committee at one time.

(3) No candidate and his or her committee shall accept an aggregate contribution total of more than \$30,000 per election, and \$20,000 in the case of a runoff election, from sources other than natural persons eligible to vote in a postal zip code completely or partially within the Austin city limits. The amount of the contribution limit shall be modified each year with the adoption of the budget to increase or decrease in accordance with the most recently published federal government[.] Bureau of Labor Statistics Indicator, Consumer Price Index (CPI-W U.S. City Average) U.S. City Average. The most recently published Consumer Price Index on May 13, 2006, shall be used as a base of 100 and the adjustment thereafter will be to the nearest \$1,000.00.

(B) Small-Donor Political Committees.

(1) A small-donor political committee is a political committee which has accepted no more than \$25 from any contributor during any calendar year, has had at least 100 contributors during either the current or previous calendar year, has been in existence for at least six months, and has never been controlled by a candidate.

(2) Such a committee shall not contribute more than \$1000 per candidate per election for the offices of mayor[~~Mayor~~] and city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~].

(F) Time Restrictions On Candidate Fundraising; Officeholder Accounts.

(1) In this section terms have the same meaning as they have in Title 15 of the Texas Election Code. The term "officeholder account" means an account in which funds described by subsection (F)(4) must be kept. "Officeholder" means the mayor or a council member.

(2) An officeholder, a candidate for mayor or city council, or an officeholder's or candidate's committee, may not solicit or accept a political contribution except during the last 180 days before an election for mayor or council member or in which an officeholder faces recall.

(3) Except as provided by subsection (F)(6), no later than the 90th day after an election, or if a candidate is in a runoff election no later than the 90th day after the runoff, a candidate or officeholder shall distribute the balance of funds received from political contributions in excess of any remaining expenses for the election:

- 746 (a) to the candidate's or officeholder's contributors on a reasonable
747 basis,
- 748 (b) to a charitable organization, or
- 749 (c) to the Austin Fair Campaign Fund.
- 750 (4) An unsuccessful candidate who, after an election, has unpaid expenses
751 remaining, or who has unreimbursed campaign expenditures from
752 personal funds that were made with the intent to seek reimbursement
753 from political contributions, may solicit and accept political
754 contributions after the election until the unpaid expenses are paid and
755 the unreimbursed expenditures are reimbursed.
- 756 (5) An officeholder who, after an election, has unpaid expenses remaining,
757 or who has unreimbursed campaign expenditures from personal funds
758 that were made with the intent to seek reimbursement from political
759 contributions, may solicit and accept political contributions after
760 leaving office until the unpaid expenses are paid and the unreimbursed
761 expenditures are reimbursed. An officeholder may also pay the unpaid
762 expenses and reimburse the unreimbursed expenditures from political
763 contributions received during a subsequent campaign.
- 764 (6) An officeholder may retain up to \$20,000 of funds received from
765 political contributions for the purposes of officeholder expenditures.
- 766 (7) An officeholder shall keep funds retained under subsection (F)(6) in an
767 account separate from any other funds including personal funds of the
768 officeholder and any other political funds of the officeholder. The funds
769 kept in an officeholder account may be used only for officeholder
770 expenditures. The funds kept in an officeholder account may not be
771 used for campaign expenditures. The funds kept in an officeholder
772 account may not exceed \$20,000.00 at any time.
- 773 (8) When an officeholder leaves the council~~Council~~, the funds remaining
774 in an officeholder account must be paid to the Austin Fair Campaign
775 Fund.
- 776 (G) Applicability To Council M~~m~~embers. Any incumbent mayor or council
777 member is subject to the regulations applied to candidates for the office he
778 or she holds.

(I) Enforcement. The city council may by ordinance adopt penalties and enforcement procedures for violations of this article~~[Article]~~.

ARTICLE IV. - INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL.

§ 2. - POWER OF REFERENDUM.

The people reserve the power to approve or reject at the polls any legislation enacted by the council which is subject to the initiative process under this Charter, except an ordinance which is enacted for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, which contains a statement of its urgency, and which is adopted by the favorable votes of eight~~[five (5)]~~ or more of the council members. Prior to the effective date of any ordinance which is subject to referendum, a petition signed by qualified voters of the city equal in number to the number of signatures required by state law to initiate an amendment to this Charter may be filed with the city clerk requesting that any such ordinance be either repealed or submitted to a vote of the people. When such a petition has been certified as sufficient by the city clerk, the ordinance specified in the petition shall not go into effect, or further action thereunder shall be suspended if it shall have gone into effect, until and unless it is approved by the voters as herein provided.

§ 3. - FORM AND VALIDATION OF A PETITION.

A petition under section~~[Section]~~ 1 or section~~[Section]~~ 2 of this article is subject to the requirements prescribed by state law for a petition to initiate an amendment to this Charter, and shall be in the form and validated in the manner prescribed by state law for a petition to initiate an amendment to this Charter.

§ 4. - COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AND SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.

When the council receives an authorized initiative petition certified by the city clerk to be sufficient, the council shall either:

- (a) Pass the initiated ordinance without amendment within 10~~[ten (10)]~~ days after the date of the certification to the council; or
- (b) Order an election and submit said initiated ordinance without amendment to a vote of the qualified voters of the city at a regular or special election to be held on the next allowable election date authorized by state law after the certification to the council.

810 When the council receives an authorized referendum petition certified by the
811 city clerk to be sufficient, the council shall reconsider the referred ordinance, and if
812 upon such reconsideration such ordinance is not repealed, it shall be submitted to the
813 voters at a regular or special election to be held on the next allowable election date
814 authorized by state law after the date of the certification to the council. Special
815 elections on initiated or referred ordinances shall not be held more frequently than
816 once each six [~~6~~] months, and no ordinance on the same subject as an initiated
817 ordinance which has been defeated at any election may be initiated by the voters
818 within two [~~2~~] years from the date of such election.

819 **§ 5. - BALLOT FORM AND RESULTS OF ELECTION.**

820 The ballot used in voting upon an initiated or referred ordinance shall state the
821 caption of the ordinance and below the caption shall set forth on separate lines the
822 words, "For the Ordinance" and "Against the Ordinance."

823 Any number of ordinances may be voted on at the same election in accordance
824 with the provisions of this article. If a majority of the votes cast is in favor of a
825 submitted ordinance, it shall thereupon be effective as an ordinance of the city. An
826 ordinance so adopted may be repealed or amended at any time after the expiration
827 of two [~~2~~] years by favorable vote of at least three_ fourths of the council. A
828 referred ordinance which is not approved by a majority of the votes cast shall be
829 deemed thereupon repealed.

830 **§ 6. - POWER OF RECALL.**

831 The people of the city reserve the power to recall any member of the council
832 and may exercise such power by filing with the city clerk a petition, signed by
833 qualified voters of the territory from which the council member is elected, equal in
834 number to at least 10 percent of the qualified voters of the territory from which the
835 council member is elected, demanding the removal of a council_member. The
836 petition shall be signed and verified in the manner required for an initiative petition,
837 shall contain a general statement of the grounds for which the removal is sought, and
838 one of the signers of each petition paper shall make an affidavit that the statements
839 therein made are true.

841 **§ 7. - RECALL ELECTION.**

842 Within 20 days after a recall petition is filed, the city clerk shall examine the
843 same. The provisions regulating examination, certification, and amendment of
844 initiative petitions shall apply to recall petitions. If the petition is certified by the city
845 clerk to be sufficient and the council_member whose removal is sought does not
846 resign within five days after the certification to the council, the council shall order
847 and hold a recall election in the territory from which the council member is elected
848 on the first authorized election date that allows sufficient time to comply with other
849 requirements of law.

850 **§ 8. - RECALL BALLOT.**

851 Ballots used at recall elections shall conform to the following requirements:

852 (1) With respect to each person whose removal is sought, the question shall
853 be submitted "Shall (name of council member[~~Councilmember~~]) be
854 removed from the office of city[~~City~~] council member[~~Councilmember~~]?"

855 (2) Immediately below each such question there shall be printed the two
856 [~~2~~] following propositions, one above the other, in the order indicated:

857 "For the recall of (name of council member[~~Councilmember~~])."

858 "Against the recall of (name of council member[~~Councilmember~~])."

859 **§ 9. - RESULTS OF RECALL ELECTION.**

860 If a majority of the votes cast at a recall election shall be against removal of
861 the council_member named on the ballot, he or she shall continue in office. If the
862 majority of the votes cast at such election be for the removal of the council_member
863 named on the ballot, the council shall immediately declare his or her office vacant
864 and, such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Charter
865 for the filling of vacancies. A council_member thus removed shall not be a candidate
866 to succeed himself or herself in an election called to fill the vacancy thereby created.

867 **§ 10. - LIMITATION ON RECALL.**

868 No recall petition shall be filed against a council_member within six [~~6~~]
869 months after he or she takes office, and no council_member shall be subject to more
870 than one recall election during a term of office.

872 **ARTICLE V. - ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION.**

873 **§ 1. - THE CITY MANAGER.**

874 The council shall appoint a city manager who shall be the chief administrative
875 and executive officer of the city. He or she shall be chosen by the council solely on
876 the basis of his or her executive and administrative training, experience, and ability,
877 and need not, when appointed, be a resident of the City of Austin; however, during
878 the tenure of his or her office, he or she shall reside within the city.

879 The city manager shall not be appointed for a definite term, but may be
880 removed at the will and pleasure of the council by a majority vote of the entire
881 membership of the council. If removed after serving six ~~[(6)]~~ months, he or she may
882 demand written charges and the right to be heard thereon at a public meeting of the
883 council prior to the date on which his or her final removal shall take place. Pending
884 such hearing, the council may suspend him or her from office. The action of the
885 council in suspending or removing the city manager shall be final, it being the
886 intention of this Charter to vest all authority and fix all responsibility for such
887 suspension or removal in the council. The city manager shall receive such
888 compensation as may be fixed by the council.

889 No member of the council shall, during the time for which he or she is elected
890 or for two ~~[(2)]~~ years thereafter, be chosen as city manager.

891 **§ 4. - DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS.**

892 At the head of each department there shall be a director who shall be
893 appointed, and who may be removed, by the city manager. Such directors shall have
894 supervision and control over their respective departments, and may serve as chiefs
895 of divisions within their respective departments. Two ~~[(2)]~~ or more departments may
896 be headed by the same individual, and the city manager may head one or more
897 departments.

898 **§ 5. - DEPARTMENTAL ORGANIZATION.**

899 The work of each department shall be distributed among such divisions as
900 may be established by ordinance; provided~~[-Provided]~~, however, that no
901 departmental division shall be made until the city manager shall have been heard and
902 have made his or her recommendations with respect thereto. Pending passage of
903 ordinances establishing departmental divisions, the manager may establish
904 temporary divisions in any department.

905 **§ 6. - CITY ATTORNEY.**

906 There shall be a department of law, the head of which shall be the city
907 attorney, who shall be appointed by the city manager. The city attorney shall be a
908 competent attorney who shall have practiced law in the State of Texas for at least
909 five [~~(5)~~] years immediately preceding his or her appointment. The city attorney
910 shall be the legal advisor of, and attorney for, all of the officers and departments of
911 the city, and he or she shall represent the city in all litigation and legal proceedings.
912 He or she shall draft, approve, or file his or her written legal objections to~~[,]~~every
913 ordinance before it is acted upon by the council, and he or she shall pass upon all
914 documents, contracts, and legal instruments in which the city may have an interest.

915 There shall be such assistant city attorneys as may be authorized by the
916 council, who shall be authorized to act for and on behalf of the city attorney.

917 **ARTICLE VI. - MUNICIPAL COURT.**

918 **§ 2. - JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT.**

919 The municipal court shall be presided over by a magistrate who shall be
920 known as the judge of the municipal court. He or she shall be appointed by the
921 council for a four-year term beginning on January first of even numbered years. He
922 or she shall be removed only for cause or disability as defined in the Texas[State]
923 Constitution. He or she shall have been admitted to practice law in the State of Texas
924 for not less than two [~~(2)~~] years and shall have resided in the city for a period of not
925 less than two [~~(2)~~] years immediately preceding his or her appointment.

926 In the event the judge of the municipal court is unable to act for any reason,
927 the council shall appoint an attorney possessing the qualifications required above to
928 act in his or her place. The judge, or anyone acting in his or her place, shall receive
929 such compensation as may be set by the council.

930 The council shall have the power to create and establish additional municipal
931 courts, and to appoint more than one judge of each municipal court, whether one or
932 more, each of whom shall be a magistrate and shall have the qualifications and serve
933 the term of office prescribed in the first paragraph of this section.

934 If any judge of a municipal court announces candidacy, or in fact becomes a
935 candidate, in any general, special, or primary election, for any elective public office,
936 at a time when the unexpired term of the judge's office exceeds one year, the judge's
937 announcement or candidacy is an automatic resignation of the office of municipal
938 judge.

939 **§ 3. - CLERK OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT.**

940 There shall be a clerk of the municipal court who shall be appointed by, and
941 who shall serve at the pleasure of, the council. The clerk shall have the power to
942 administer oaths and affidavits, make certificates, affix the seal of the court thereto,
943 and otherwise perform any and all acts necessary in issuing process for~~[or]~~ such
944 court and conducting the business thereof.

945 There shall be such deputy clerks of the municipal court as may be authorized
946 by the council, who shall have authority to act for and on behalf of the clerk of the
947 municipal court, and who shall be appointed by the clerk of the municipal court.

948 **ARTICLE VII. - FINANCE.**

949 **§ 2. - DIRECTOR OF FINANCE — POWERS AND DUTIES.**

950 The director of finance shall administer all financial affairs of the city, other
951 than the assessment and collection of taxes. He or she shall have authority and be
952 required to:

- 953 (1) Maintain a general accounting system for the city government and
954 exercise financial control over all offices, departments, and agencies
955 thereof;
- 956 (2) Certify as to the availability of funds for all proposed expenditures.
957 Unless the Director of Finance shall certify that there is an
958 unencumbered balance in the appropriation and funds available, no
959 appropriation shall be encumbered, and no expenditure shall be made;
- 960 (3) Submit to the council, through the city manager, a monthly statement
961 of all receipts and disbursements in sufficient detail to show the exact
962 financial condition of the city;
- 963 (4) Prepare, as of the end of the fiscal year, a complete financial statement
964 and report.

965 **§ 3. - FISCAL YEAR.**

966 The fiscal year of the city which began on January 1, 1953, shall end on
967 December 31, 1953. The next succeeding fiscal year shall begin on January 1, 1954,
968 and end on September 30, 1954, and shall constitute an interim fiscal period. After
969 September 30, 1954, the fiscal year of the city shall begin on the first day of October
970 and end on the last day of September of each calendar year. The fiscal year

established by this section shall also constitute the budget and accounting year. As used herein, the term "budget year" shall mean the fiscal year for which any budget is adopted and in which it is administered. All funds collected by the city during any fiscal year, including both current and delinquent revenues, shall belong to such fiscal year and, except for funds derived to pay interest and create a sinking fund on the bonded indebtedness of the city, shall be applied to the payment of expenses incurred during such fiscal year. Any revenues uncollected at the end of any fiscal year shall become resources of the next succeeding fiscal year.

§ 6. - BUDGET PREPARATION AND ADOPTION.

At least 30~~[thirty (30)]~~ days prior to the beginning of each budget year, the city manager shall submit to the council a proposed budget in the form required by this Charter. At the meeting of the council at which the budget is submitted, the council shall order a public hearing on the budget and shall cause to be published, at least 10~~[ten (10)]~~ days prior to the date of such hearing, the time and place thereof. At the time and place so advertised the council shall hold a public hearing on the budget as submitted, at which all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard. The budget shall be finally adopted not later than the twenty-seventh day of the last month of the fiscal year. Upon final adoption the budget shall be in effect for the budget year, and copies thereof shall be filed with the city clerk, the county~~[County]~~ clerk~~[Clerk]~~ of Travis County, and the state comptroller of public accounts. The final budget shall be reproduced and sufficient copies shall be made available for use of all offices, departments, and agencies of the city, and for the use of interested persons.

§ 7. - WORK PROGRAMS AND ALLOTMENTS.

At the beginning of each fiscal year the head of each department or agency of the city government, upon the direction of the city manager, shall submit to the department of finance a work program for the year. Said work program shall include all appropriations for operation, maintenance, and capital outlays and shall indicate the requested allotments of such appropriations by months for the entire fiscal year. The city manager shall review the requested allotments, and, after such alteration or revision as he may deem necessary, authorize such for expenditure. Thereafter the department of finance shall authorize all expenditures for departments and agencies to be made from the appropriations on the basis of the approved allotments and not otherwise. The approved allotments may be revised during the fiscal year by the city manager, or upon application by the head of any department or agency and approval by the city manager, but in no event shall the aggregate of departmental or agency allotments exceed the appropriation available to such departments or agencies for

the fiscal year. If, at any time during the fiscal year, the city manager shall ascertain that available revenues will be less than total appropriations for the year, he or she shall reconsider the work program and allotments of the departments and agencies and revise them so as to prevent the making of expenditures in excess of available revenues.

§ 12. - REVENUE BONDS FOR CONSERVATION.

In order to conserve the energy-producing resources, water resources, and wastewater treatment facilities of the city and, therefore, to save money of the city, the city shall have power to borrow money for the purpose of providing conservation facilities, including facilities to be owned or operated by persons other than the city, and to issue revenue bonds, notes or other obligation in evidence of such borrowing. Such bonds shall be a charge upon and payable solely from the public utilities referred to in the first paragraph of [this] Section 11 and the income therefrom, and shall never be a debt of the city. All revenue bonds or obligations shall be issued in accordance with applicable laws of the State of Texas. The council shall have the authority to provide for the terms and form of any purchase agreement, contract, mortgage, bond or document desired or necessary for the issuance of revenue bonds and the providing of any such resource conservation facilities.

§ 15. - PURCHASE PROCEDURE.

All purchases made and contracts executed by the city shall be pursuant to a written requisition from the head of the office, department or agency whose appropriation will be charged, and no contract or order shall be binding upon the city unless and until the director of finance certifies that there is to the credit of such office, department or agency a sufficient unencumbered appropriation balance to pay for the supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services for which the contract or order is to be issued. Before the city makes any purchase or contract for supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services, opportunity shall be given for competition unless exempted by state statute. The city manager shall have the authority to contract for expenditures without further approval of the council for an expenditure that does not exceed forty-three thousand dollars annually. A contract or an amendment to a contract, involving an expenditure of more than forty-three thousand dollars annually must be expressly approved by the council. All contracts or purchases involving more than \$5,000.00~~[five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00)]~~ shall be let to the bid deemed most advantageous to the city after there has been an opportunity for competitive bidding; provided, however, that the council shall have the right to reject any and all bids. Contracts for personal or professional services shall not be let on competitive bids and each such contract, or amendment to a

contract, involving more than forty-three thousand dollars annually shall be approved by the council. The city manager may not contract for personal or professional services under the manager's authority if the manager knows or reasonably should know that the contractor's full scope of work will exceed the limit of the manager's authority. The amount of the forty-three thousand dollar annual limitation shall be modified each year with the adoption of the budget to increase or decrease in accordance with the most recently published federal government, Bureau of Labor Statistics Indicator, Consumer Price Index (CPI-W U.S. City Average), U.S. City Average. The most recently published Consumer Price Index on May 4, 2002, shall be used as a base of 100 and the adjustment thereafter will be to the nearest \$1,000.00[one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)].

ARTICLE IX. - PERSONNEL.

§ 1. - CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE.

(B) There is hereby established a classified civil service in which all employment and promotions shall be made on the basis of merit and fitness. The civil service shall include all appointive offices and employments in the administrative service and in other agencies and offices of the city[City], except the following:

- (1) members of the city council and their direct staff;
- (2) persons who are appointed or elected by the city council pursuant to this Charter;
- (3) the city manager and assistant city managers;
- (4) department directors and assistant department directors;
- (5) the city attorney and all assistant city attorneys;
- (6) temporary and seasonal employees; and
- (7) employees covered by a state civil service statute.

§ 2. - MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

(C) Each commissioner must be a qualified voter of the city[City] who does not, during the commissioner's term, hold or become a candidate for any other public office of the city[City] or of the State of Texas.

1075 (G) The commission shall:

- 1076 (1) hear appeals and make final, binding decisions in the case of any
1077 municipal civil service employee or appointee who is discharged,
1078 suspended, demoted, denied a promotion, or put on disciplinary
1079 probation;
- 1080 (2) recommend the adoption of civil service rules and perform services
1081 under the civil service rules as provided in this section;
- 1082 (3) conduct any investigations it may consider desirable or which it may be
1083 required to make by the city council or the city manager concerning the
1084 administration of municipal civil service, and report its findings and
1085 recommendations to the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~];
- 1086 (4) perform other duties regarding the municipal civil service, not
1087 inconsistent with this article, that the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~] may
1088 require;
- 1089 (5) issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum to witnesses, whether at
1090 the request of interested parties or on its own motion, when reasonably
1091 necessary to obtain pertinent evidence at a hearing or investigation; and
- 1092 (6) administer oaths to witnesses appearing at a hearing or investigation.

1093 **§ 5. – EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**

1094 There shall be a retirement system for the employees of the city which shall
1095 be known as the employees' retirement system of the City of Austin. After the first
1096 six [~~(6)~~] months of employment, all municipal employees except the mayor,
1097 members of the council, members of boards and commissions, employees of the fire
1098 department, and part-time or temporary employees, shall become members of such
1099 system. Such system shall be governed by a board of directors composed of such
1100 members and selected in such a manner as may be provided by ordinance of the
1101 council, provided that classified employees shall have representation on the board.
1102 Such system shall be financed by a retirement fund created by contributions of the
1103 members and of the city, and the contributions by the city shall always be equal to
1104 or greater than the contributions of the members. The benefits payable to any
1105 member upon retirement shall be based upon the amount of contributions made on
1106 behalf of such member, and shall be determined on an actuarial basis. Upon
1107 separation of any member from the service of the city before retirement, such

1108 member shall be entitled to receive only the amount of his or her contributions to the
1109 fund and interest thereon.

1110 Establishment of the employees' retirement system shall not preclude the
1111 council from merging such system with, or adopting, any voluntary statewide or
1112 national retirement system where the general benefits of such merger or change are
1113 at least equal to those under the employees' retirement system. The council shall
1114 likewise not be precluded from consolidating any retirement system maintained by
1115 employees of the fire department with the employees' retirement system of the City
1116 of Austin under terms agreeable to both systems.

1117 **§ 6. - COUNCIL APPOINTEES.**

1118 (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter:

1119 (1) each member of the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~] may hire assistants
1120 and other office staff as may be necessary to carry out the duties and
1121 responsibilities of the city council, and as may be authorized by
1122 ordinance;

1123 (2) each of the salaried city employees that this Charter provides be
1124 appointed by the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~] shall hire and manage the
1125 appointee's own staff as may be authorized by ordinance;

1126 (3) the city [~~City~~] council [~~Council~~] may by ordinance provide for the
1127 adoption of the personnel policies for the employees subject to this
1128 section.

1129 (B) If an officer or employee who is appointed by the city council under this
1130 charter, other than a judge of a municipal court, announces candidacy, or in
1131 fact becomes a candidate, in any general, special, or primary election, for
1132 any elective public office, the officer's or employee's announcement or
1133 candidacy is an automatic resignation of the office or employment.

1134 **ARTICLE X. - PLANNING.**

1135 **§ 4. - THE PLANNING COMMISSION — POWERS AND DUTIES.**

1136 The planning commission shall:

1137 (1) Review and make recommendations to the council regarding the
1138 adoption and implementation of a comprehensive plan (as defined by
1139 section [~~Section~~] 5 of this article) or element or portion thereof prepared

1140 under authorization of the city council and under the direction of the
1141 city manager and responsible city planning staff;

1142 (2) After a comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof has been
1143 adopted in conformity with this article:

1144 (a) Review and make recommendation to the council on all
1145 amendments to the comprehensive plan or element or portion
1146 thereof;

1147 (b) Review and make recommendations to the council on all proposals
1148 to adopt or amend land development regulations for the purpose of
1149 establishing the relationship of such proposal to, and its
1150 consistency with, the adopted comprehensive plan or element or
1151 portion thereof. For purposes of this article and subsection, "land
1152 development regulations" includes zoning, subdivision, building
1153 and construction, environmental, and other police power
1154 regulations controlling, regulating, or affecting the use or
1155 development of land;

1156 (3) Pursuant to ordinances adopted by the council, exercise control over
1157 platting and subdividing land within the corporate limits and the
1158 extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city to insure the consistency of any
1159 such plats or subdivision with the adopted comprehensive plan or
1160 element or portion thereof;

1161 (4) Submit annually to the city manager, not less than 90~~ninety (90)~~ days
1162 prior to the beginning of the budget year, a list of recommended capital
1163 improvements, which in the opinion of the commission are necessary
1164 or desirable to implement the adopted comprehensive plan or element
1165 or portion thereof during the forthcoming five-year period;

1166 (5) Monitor and oversee the effectiveness and status of the comprehensive
1167 plan and recommend annually to the council any changes in or
1168 amendments to the comprehensive plan as may be desired or required;

1169 (6) Prepare periodic evaluation and appraisal reports on the comprehensive
1170 plan, which shall be sent to the council at least once every five ~~(5)~~
1171 years after the adoption of the comprehensive plan or element or portion
1172 thereof;

(7) Require information from the city manager relative to its work; The commission shall be responsible to and act as an advisory body to the council and shall perform such additional duties and exercise such additional powers as may be prescribed by ordinance of the council not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter.

§ 5. - THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

The council shall adopt by ordinance a comprehensive plan, which shall constitute the master and general plan. The comprehensive plan shall contain the council's policies for growth, development, and beautification of the land within the corporate limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city, or for geographic portions thereof including neighborhood, community or areawide plans. The comprehensive plan shall include the following elements: (1) a future land use element; (2) a traffic circulation and mass transit element; (3) a wastewater, solid waste, drainage and potable water element; (4) a conservation and environmental resources element; (5) a recreation and open space element; (6) a housing element; (7) a public services and facilities element, which shall include but not be limited to a capital improvement program; (8) a public buildings and related facilities element; (9) an economic element for commercial and industrial development and redevelopment; and (10) health and human service element.

The council may also adopt by ordinance other elements as are necessary or desirable to establish and implement policies for growth, development, and beautification within the city, its extraterritorial jurisdiction, or for geographic portions thereof, including neighborhood, community, or areawide plans. The council shall provide for financing of all elements contained in the comprehensive plan in accordance with law.

The several elements of the comprehensive plan shall be coordinated and be internally consistent. Each element shall include policy recommendations for its implementation and shall be implemented, in part, by the adoption and enforcement of appropriate land development regulations.

The planning commission shall forward the proposed comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof to the city manager, who shall thereupon submit such plan, or element or portion thereof, to the council with recommendations thereon.

The council may adopt, or adopt with changes or amendments, the proposed comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof, after at least one public hearing. The council shall act on such plan, element or portion thereof, within 60[~~sixty (60)~~]

1208 days following its submission by the city manager. If such plan or element or portion
1209 thereof is not adopted by the council, it shall, with policy direction, return such plan
1210 or element thereof the planning commission, which may modify such plan or
1211 element or portion thereof, and again forward it to the city manager for submission
1212 in like manner to the council. Furthermore, all amendments to the comprehensive
1213 plan or element or portion thereof recommended by the planning commission shall
1214 be forwarded to the city manager and shall be subject to review and adoption in the
1215 same manner as for the original adoption of the comprehensive plan as set forth
1216 above.

1217. **§ 6. - LEGAL EFFECT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

1218 Upon adoption of a comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof by the city
1219 council, all land development regulations including zoning and map, subdivision
1220 regulations, roadway plan, all public improvements, public facilities, public
1221 utilities projects, and all city regulatory actions relating to land use, subdivision
1222 and development approval shall be consistent with the comprehensive plan,
1223 element or portion thereof as adopted. For purposes of clarity, consistency, and
1224 facilitation of comprehensive planning and land development process, the various
1225 types of local regulations or laws concerning the development of land may be
1226 combined in their totality in a single ordinance known as the Land Development
1227 Code of the City of Austin.

1228 **§ 7. - LEGAL EFFECT OF PRIOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

1229 Any comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof adopted pursuant to
1230 the authority of Article X of this Charter or other law, but prior to the effective date
1231 of this amendment, shall continue to have such force and effect as it had at the date
1232 of its adoption and until appropriate action is taken to adopt a new comprehensive
1233 plan or element or portion thereof as required and authorized by this amendment.

1234 **ARTICLE XI. - FRANCHISES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES.**

1235. **§ 1. - INALIENABILITY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

1236 The right of control and use of the public streets, highways, sidewalk, alleys, parks,
1237 public squares, and public places of the city is hereby declared to be inalienable
1238 by the city, except by ordinances not in conflict with the provisions of this
1239 Charter. No act or omission by the council or any officer or agent of the city shall
1240 be construed to grant, renew, extend, or amend by estoppel or indirection any

1241 right, franchise, or easement affecting said public streets, highways, sidewalks,
1242 alleys, parks, public squares, public places, and other real property.

1243 **§ 2. - POWER TO GRANT FRANCHISE.**

1244 The council shall have the power by ordinance to grant, renew, and extend all
1245 franchises of all service providers placing or installing facilities or equipment in, on
1246 or over the city~~[City]~~ rights of way and of all public utilities of every character
1247 operating within the city, and, with consent of the franchise holder, to amend the
1248 same; provided~~[-Provided]~~, however, that no franchise shall be granted for a term
1249 of more than 25~~[twenty-five (25)]~~ years, and that no franchise shall be granted,
1250 renewed, extended, or amended, except on condition that the city shall have the right
1251 at any time within five ~~[(5)]~~ years of the expiration of the term thereof to purchase
1252 the property of the franchise holder at a price to be determined according to the
1253 method agreed upon in the ordinance granting, renewing, extending, or amending
1254 the franchise.

1255 **§ 3. - ORDINANCE GRANTING FRANCHISE.**

1256 Every ordinance granting, renewing, extending, or amending a franchise shall
1257 be read at three ~~[(3)]~~ regular meetings of the council, and shall not be finally acted
1258 upon until 30~~[thirty (30)]~~ days after the first reading thereof. Within five ~~[(5)]~~ days
1259 following each of the three ~~[(3)]~~ readings of the ordinance, the full text thereof shall
1260 be published one time in some newspaper of general circulation in the city, and the
1261 expense of such publication shall be borne by the prospective franchise holder. No
1262 such ordinance shall become effective until the expiration of 60~~[sixty (60)]~~ days
1263 following the date of its final adoption by the council, and every such ordinance shall
1264 be subject to the referendum procedure provided by state law.

1265 **§ 6. - REGULATION OF RATES.**

1266 The council shall have full power after notice and hearing to regulate by
1267 ordinance the rates, charges, and fares of every franchise holder operating in the city
1268 to the fullest extent allowed by state and federal law; provided, however, ~~[-Provided]~~
1269 that no such ordinance shall be passed as an emergency measure. Any franchise
1270 holder requesting an increase in its rates, charges, or fares shall have, at the hearing
1271 on such request, the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence the
1272 value of its investments and the amount and character of its expenses and revenues.
1273 No franchise holder shall institute any legal action to contest any rate, charge, or fare
1274 fixed by the council until such franchise holder has filed a motion for rehearing with
1275 the council specifically setting out each ground of its complaint against the rate,

1276 charge or fare fixed by the council, and until the council shall have acted upon such
1277 motion.

1278 **ARTICLE XII. - GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

1279. **§ 2. - OFFICERS, ETC. — IMPROPER ACTS OF.**

1280 Any officer or employee of the city who by solicitation or otherwise shall exert his/her
1281 influence directly or indirectly to influence any other officer or employee of the
1282 city to favor any particular person or candidate for office in the city shall be guilty
1283 of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall forfeit his or her office or
1284 employment and be punished by a fine not exceeding [~~two hundred dollars~~]
1285 [~~(€)~~\$200.00~~(€)~~]. Officers and employees shall not be permitted to take an active part
1286 in any political campaign of another for an elective position of the city if they are
1287 in uniform or on active duty. The term "active part" means making political
1288 speeches, passing out cards, or other political literature, writing letters, signing
1289 petitions, actively and openly soliciting votes, and making public derogatory
1290 remarks about candidates for such elective positions. City officers and employees
1291 are prohibited from contributing or using city resources, equipment, or money for
1292 election campaigning.

1293 Officers and employees coming under the provisions of this act are not
1294 required to contribute to any political fund or render any political service to any
1295 person or party whatsoever; and no person shall be removed, reduced in
1296 classification or salary, or otherwise prejudiced by refusing to do so; and any
1297 official who attempts the same shall be guilty of violating the provisions of this
1298 section.

1299 **§ 3. - NOTICE OF CLAIMS.**

1300 Before the City of Austin shall be liable for damages for the death or personal
1301 injuries of any person or for damage to or destruction of property of any kind, which
1302 does not constitute a taking or damaging of property under Article I, Section 17,
1303 Constitution of Texas, the person injured, if living, or his or her representatives, if
1304 dead, or the owner of the property damaged or destroyed, shall give the city council
1305 or city manager notice in writing of such death, injury, damage or destruction, duly
1306 verified by affidavit, within 45[~~forty-five (45)~~] days after same has been sustained,
1307 stating specifically in such written notice when, where, and how the death, injury,
1308 damage or destruction, occurred, and the apparent extent of any such injury, the
1309 amount of damages sustained, the actual residence of the claimant by street and

number at the date the claim is presented, the actual residence of such claimant for six ~~[(6)]~~ months immediately preceding the occurrence of such death, injury, damage or destruction, and the names and addresses of all witnesses upon whom it is relied to establish the claim for damages; and the failure to so notify the council or city manager within the time and manner specified herein shall exonerate, excuse and exempt the city from any liability whatsoever. No act of any officer or employee of the city shall waive compliance, or estop the city from requiring compliance, with the provisions of this section as to notice, but such provisions may be waived by resolution of the council, made and passed before the expiration of the 45-day~~[forty-five-day]~~ period herein provided, and evidenced by minutes of the council.

§ 6. - ASSIGNMENT, EXECUTION AND GARNISHMENT.

The property, real and personal, belonging to the city~~[City]~~ shall not be liable for sale or appropriation under any writ of execution. The funds belonging to the city~~[City]~~, in the hands of any person, firm, or corporation, shall not be liable to garnishment, attachment, or sequestration; nor shall the city~~[City]~~ be liable to garnishment on account of any debt it may owe or funds or property it may have on hand or owing to any person. Neither the city~~[City]~~ nor any of its officers or agents shall be required to answer any such writ of garnishment on any account whatever unless specifically exempted by statute. The city~~[City]~~ shall not be obligated to recognize any assignment of wages or funds by its employees, agents or contractors.

§ 12. - INTERIM MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

From and after the date of the adoption of any amendment to this Charter and until the completion of the first city election thereunder and the qualification of the mayor and council_members therein elected, the mayor and council_members then in office shall continue in office and shall exercise all of the powers conferred upon the city by such amendment.

PART 5. A special municipal election shall be held in the City on November 6, 2018, to submit to the voters of the city a proposed citizen-initiated ordinance regarding whether there must be both a waiting period and subsequent voter approval before any comprehensive revisions of the City's land development laws may go into effect. The ballot shall be prepared to permit voting "Yes" or "No" on the Proposition:

Proposition C: Ballot language to be determined.

PART 6 A special municipal election shall be held in the City on November 6, 2018, to submit to the voters of the city a proposed citizen-initiated ordinance

regarding an efficiency study of the city's operational and fiscal performance conducted by an independent third party. The ballot shall be prepared to permit voting "Yes" or "No" on the Proposition:

Proposition D: Ballot language to be determined.

PART 7. If the proposition provided in Part 5 is approved by the majority of voters voting at the election, the City Code is amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE __. _____.

§ _____ REQUIRED WAITING PERIOD AND VOTER REFERENDUM FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVISIONS OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT LAWS.

- (A) Waiting Period. CodeNEXT, or subsequent comprehensive revisions of the land development laws, shall not go into effect legally, or any land entitlements be granted or vested under these laws, until the June 1st following the next regularly scheduled council elections after Council adopts CodeNEXT or the comprehensive revisions. This waiting period is to ensure voters can learn about the proposed comprehensive revisions and elect council members with sufficient time to amend or reject the prior council's adopted comprehensive revisions before these laws may go into effect.
- (B) Voter Approval. After the waiting period in Subsection (A), CodeNEXT, or subsequent comprehensive revisions of the land development laws, shall not go into effect, or any land entitlements be granted or vested under these laws, until the registered voters of Austin approve these laws at the next available municipal election. Voters shall approve or disapprove CodeNEXT, or subsequent comprehensive revisions, in its entirety and not piecemeal. Should the voters fail to approve the comprehensive revisions, then the existing land development laws remain in effect. Notwithstanding any other provision, under no circumstances shall the voters' rejection of CodeNEXT or proposed comprehensive revisions under this Section be considered or interpreted as repealing the existing land development code.

(C) This section overrides all city charter provisions, ordinances, and laws and should be liberally construed to uphold Austin citizens' sovereign rights to control their government and laws.

(D) Severability Clause. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

PART 8. If the proposition provided in Part 6 is approved by the majority of voters voting at the election, the City Code Chapter 2-3 (*City Auditor*) is amended to add new Section 2-3-12, to read as follows:

§ 2-3-12 EFFICIENCY STUDY.

MISSION

(A) The City's Efficiency Study will provide an impartial, objective review of the city's operational and fiscal performance, including development of a Government Efficiency Blueprint which includes a comprehensive budget analysis, efficiency and enhancement recommendations, and a targeted list of opportunities for operating savings.

QUALIFICATIONS

(B) The efficiency study shall be conducted by an independent third party entity with extensive experience in government efficiency, and is knowledgeable in fiscal and budget analysis, public administration, and municipal finance and fiscal practices. The city may not contract with or hire, as an independent third party entity, an entity which has had a contract directly with the city within the past 5 years, or which employs an individual who:

(1) has served as the City's mayor, a council member, city auditor or city manager or has had a contract directly with the city within five years before the date of hire; or

(2) is related, by affinity or consanguinity within the second degree, to the mayor, a council member, city auditor, or the city manager.

OBJECTIVES AND WORK PRODUCT

(C) The efficiency study shall produce a Government Efficiency Blueprint (Plan) that recommends specific opportunities for consolidation, shared services, and other changes that permanently reduce tax burdens and/or increase the

1416 quantity and quality of services. The efficiency study shall include all City
1417 Departments, including all General Fund Departments and all publicly-owned
1418 utilities, including, but not limited to, Austin Energy, Austin Water, Austin
1419 Resource Recovery, all Enterprise Departments, including, but not limited to,
1420 the Austin Convention Center, the Austin Transportation Department, and all
1421 Internal Service Departments, including but not limited to, Law, Human
1422 Resources, Economic Development and Fleet Services. The Plan will
1423 identify specific targets for program efficiencies, cost savings, revenue
1424 enhancements, private/public partnership initiatives, and monetization of
1425 unused or underutilized city assets. The Plan shall include:

1426 (1) A comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the City's budget to identify
1427 spending and revenue trends and outliers. This Plan objective
1428 should include:

- 1429 ○ Trend Analysis – Review and analysis of both historical and
1430 forecasted revenue and expense trends
- 1431 ○ Benchmarking analysis – Comparison of the City's revenue
1432 and expense spending levels to peer cities and other
1433 recognized benchmarks

1434 (2) Identify recommendations that prioritize target areas with large and
1435 substantial expenditures that affect the City's general revenue fund
1436 and where the City can become more efficient and thereby provide
1437 cost savings.

1438 (3) A prioritized listing of opportunities for operating savings,
1439 efficiency and enhancement recommendations both in written form
1440 and explained through testimony before the City Council and other
1441 responsible bodies. These recommendations should be classified
1442 into short-term opportunities which can be implemented within the
1443 current budget cycle, medium-term opportunities which can be
1444 implemented within one to three years, and long-term opportunities
1445 which may require three or more years to implement. The
1446 recommendations should be documented and the independent third
1447 party entity shall make the working papers available that detail the
1448 assumptions behind the cost and benefit estimates for each
1449 recommendation.

1450 (4) The independent third party entity shall be available and willing to
1451 assist in the implementation of its recommendations. The Plan shall
1452 also include: a list of the required critical steps, including any
1453 statutory or regulatory changes, an estimate of the financial and

1454 personnel resources required, an estimate of the timeframe to
1455 implement the recommendations, and any deployment strategies,
1456 communication management, dashboards, and monitoring tools
1457 necessary for its implementation.

1458
1459 **INDEPENDENCE AND NON-INTERFERENCE**

1460 (D)The independent third party entity shall have the full cooperation and
1461 assistance of the City Manager, publicly-owned utilities, Enterprise
1462 Departments, Internal Services Departments and all other City Departments
1463 in providing unfettered access to all data and information requested. City
1464 employees shall provide free and open access to, and furnish copies of
1465 information in any medium, including a record, book, account, internal or
1466 external memorandum, tape, report, file, diskette, computer data, money,
1467 fund, or other information, and shall also provide free and open access to
1468 property, equipment, facilities, and operations for inspection or observation.

1469 **PART 9.** A special election shall be held in the City of Austin on November 6,
1470 2018, for the voters to consider the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes.
1471 The Council establishes that the following propositions shall be presented to the
1472 voters at the special election:

1473 **Proposition E (Affordable Housing)**

1474 **CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION E**

1475 Shall the City Council of the City of Austin, Texas be authorized to
1476 issue general obligation bonds and notes of the City for the public
1477 purposes of planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, renovating,
1478 improving, and equipping affordable housing facilities and related
1479 infrastructure for low and moderate income persons and families;
1480 acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary for such
1481 purposes; funding affordable housing and home repair programs as may
1482 be permitted by law; funding loans and grants for affordable housing
1483 purposes, pursuant to an economic development program now or
1484 hereafter approved; and all matters necessary or incidental thereto; with
1485 the bonds and notes to be issued in one or more series or issues, in the
1486 aggregate principal amount of \$250,000,000, to mature serially or
1487 otherwise and bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the respective
1488 limits prescribed by law at the time of issuance, and to be sold at the
1489 price or prices as the City Council determines and shall there be levied

1490 and pledged, assessed, and collected annually ad valorem taxes on all
1491 taxable property in the City in an amount sufficient, within the limits
1492 prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest on the bonds and notes and
1493 to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds and notes at maturity?

1494 **Proposition F (Libraries, Museums and Cultural Arts Facilities)**

1495 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION F

1496 Shall the City Council of the City of Austin, Texas be authorized to
1497 issue general obligation bonds and notes of the City for the public
1498 purposes of planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, renovating,
1499 improving, and equipping community and cultural facilities, libraries,
1500 museums, and cultural arts facilities, which include creative spaces
1501 dedicated to the creation, exhibition, or preservation of art and creative
1502 expression; acquiring land and interests in land and property for such
1503 purposes; and all matters necessary or incidental thereto; with the bonds
1504 and notes to be issued in one or more series or issues, in the aggregate
1505 principal amount of \$128,000,000, to mature serially or otherwise and
1506 bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the respective limits
1507 prescribed by law at the time of issuance, and to be sold at the price or
1508 prices as the City Council determines and shall there be levied and
1509 pledged, assessed, and collected annually ad valorem taxes on all
1510 taxable property in the City in an amount sufficient, within the limits
1511 prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest on the bonds and notes and
1512 to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds and notes at maturity?

1513 **Proposition G (Parks and Recreation)**

1514 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION G

1515 Shall the City Council of the City of Austin, Texas, be authorized to
1516 issue general obligation bonds and notes of the City for park and
1517 recreation purposes, to wit: planning, designing, acquiring,
1518 constructing, renovating, improving and equipping public parks,
1519 recreation centers and other park buildings and infrastructure, natural
1520 areas, and other related facilities, including, without limitation,
1521 playgrounds, hike and bike trails, athletic fields, swimming pools,
1522 sports and aquatics facilities, and related parking lot and roadway
1523 infrastructure; acquiring land and interests in land and property
1524 necessary for such purposes; and all matters necessary or incidental

thereto; with the bonds and notes to be issued in one or more series or issues, in the aggregate principal amount of \$149,000,000, to mature serially or otherwise and bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the respective limits prescribed by law at the time of issuance, and to be sold at the price or prices as the City Council determines and shall there be levied and pledged, assessed, and collected annually ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the City in an amount sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest on the bonds and notes and to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds and notes at maturity?

Proposition H (Flood Mitigation, Open Space and Water Quality Protection)

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION H

Shall the City Council of the City of Austin, Texas, be authorized to issue general obligation bonds and notes of the City for the public purposes of planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and installing improvements and facilities for flood mitigation and control, erosion control, water quality, water quantity, and storm-water drainage and acquiring land, open spaces and interests in land and property for the conservation, preservation and protection of natural areas and the region's water quality; and all matters necessary or incidental thereto; with the bonds and notes to be issued in one or more series or issues, in the aggregate principal amount of \$184,000,000, to mature serially or otherwise and bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the respective limits prescribed by law at the time of issuance, and to be sold at the price or prices as the City Council determines and shall there be levied and pledged, assessed, and collected annually ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the City in an amount sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest on the bonds and notes and to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds and notes at maturity?

Proposition I (Public Safety)

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION I

Shall the City Council of the City of Austin, Texas be authorized to issue general obligation bonds and notes of the City for public safety purposes, to wit: planning, designing, renovating, improving, and equipping existing fire department facilities and existing emergency

1560 medical service facilities in the City; and all matters necessary or
1561 incidental thereto; with the bonds and notes to be issued in one or more
1562 series or issues, in the aggregate principal amount of \$38,000,000, to
1563 mature serially or otherwise and bear interest at a rate or rates not to
1564 exceed the respective limits prescribed by law at the time of issuance,
1565 and to be sold at the price or prices as the City Council determines and
1566 shall there be levied and pledged, assessed, and collected annually ad
1567 valorem taxes on all taxable property in the City in an amount
1568 sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest
1569 on the bonds and notes and to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds
1570 and notes at maturity?

1571 **Proposition J (Transportation Infrastructure)**

1572 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION J

1573 Shall the City Council of the City of Austin, Texas, be authorized to
1574 issue general obligation bonds and notes of the City for transportation
1575 and mobility purposes, to wit: planning, designing, constructing,
1576 reconstructing, equipping and improving roads, streets, intersections,
1577 sidewalks, bridges, urban trails, and related utility and drainage
1578 infrastructure; improving traffic signal synchronization and
1579 communications and control systems; acquiring and installing traffic
1580 signals and related technology; acquiring land and interests in land and
1581 property necessary for such purposes; and all matters necessary or
1582 incidental thereto; with the bonds and notes to be issued in one or more
1583 series or issues, in the aggregate principal amount of \$160,000,000, to
1584 mature serially or otherwise and bear interest at a rate or rates not to
1585 exceed the respective limits prescribed by law at the time of issuance,
1586 and to be sold at the price or prices as the City Council determines and
1587 shall there be levied and pledged, assessed, and collected annually ad
1588 valorem taxes on all taxable property in the City in an amount
1589 sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest
1590 on the bonds and notes and to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds
1591 and notes at maturity?

1592 **Proposition K (Health and Human Services)**

1593 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION K

1594 Shall the City Council of the City of Austin, Texas be authorized to
1595 issue general obligation bonds and notes of the City for the public
1596 purposes of planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and equipping
1597 a new neighborhood public health and human services facility in the
1598 Dove Springs area, to be owned and operated by the City; acquiring
1599 land and interests in land and property necessary for such purposes; and
1600 all matters necessary or incidental thereto; with the bonds and notes to
1601 be issued in one or more series or issues, in the aggregate principal
1602 amount of \$16,000,000, to mature serially or otherwise and bear interest
1603 at a rate or rates not to exceed the respective limits prescribed by law at
1604 the time of issuance, and to be sold at the price or prices as the City
1605 Council determines and shall there be levied and pledged, assessed, and
1606 collected annually ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the City
1607 in an amount sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the
1608 annual interest on the bonds and notes and to provide a sinking fund to
1609 pay the bonds and notes at maturity?

1610 **PART 10.** The Propositions will appear on the official ballot in substantially the
1611 following form, and the ballot shall be prepared to permit voting “for” or “against”
1612 each Proposition:

1614 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
1615 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION E
1616

1617 The issuance of \$250,000,000 in tax supported general obligation
1618 bonds and notes for constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping
1619 affordable housing facilities for low income and moderate income
1620 persons and families, and acquiring land and interests in land and
1621 property necessary to do so, funding loans and grants for affordable
1622 housing, and funding affordable housing programs, as may be
1623 permitted by law; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds
1624 and notes.

1625 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
1626 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION F

1627 The issuance of \$128,000,000 in tax supported general obligation
1628 bonds and notes for constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping
1629 community and cultural facilities, libraries, museums, and cultural and
1630 creative arts facilities, and acquiring land and interests in land and
1631 property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for
1632 the bonds and notes.

1633 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
1634 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION G

1635 The issuance of \$149,000,000 in tax supported general obligation
1636 bonds and notes for constructing, renovating, improving and equipping
1637 public parks, recreation centers, natural areas, and other related
1638 facilities, including, without limitation, playgrounds, hike and bike
1639 trails, sports courts, and swimming pools, and acquiring land and
1640 interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax
1641 sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

1642 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
1643 CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION H

1644 The issuance of \$184,000,000 in tax supported general obligation
1645 bonds and notes for flood mitigation, open space and water quality and
1646 quantity for designing, constructing, and installing improvements and
1647 facilities for flood control, erosion control, water quality, water
1648 quantity, and storm-water drainage, and acquiring land, open spaces,

and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION I

The issuance of \$38,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for renovating, improving, and equipping existing public safety facilities, specifically fire and emergency medical services stations, buildings, and other related facilities; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION J

The issuance of \$160,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, constructing, reconstructing, and improving roads, streets, intersections, sidewalks, bridges, urban trails and related utility and drainage infrastructure for the roads and streets; improving traffic signal synchronization and control systems; acquiring and installing traffic signals; and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS PROPOSITION K

The issuance of \$16,000,000 in tax supported general obligations bonds and notes for constructing, reconstructing, improving, and equipping a neighborhood public health and human services facility in the Dove Springs area; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

PART 11. Pursuant to Section 3.009, Texas Election Code: (i) the proposition language that will appear on the ballot is set forth in Part 10 hereof, (ii) the purposes for which the bonds and notes are to be authorized are set forth in Part 9 hereof, (iii) the principal amount of bonds and notes to be authorized is set forth in Part 9 hereof, (iv) if the issuance of bonds and notes is authorized by voters, taxes sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the annual principal of and interest on the bonds and notes and to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds and notes may be imposed, as set forth in Part 9 hereof, (v) bonds and notes authorized pursuant to this ordinance may be issued to mature over not to exceed 40 years from their date of issuance and

bearing interest at the rate or rates as authorized by law and determined by the Council, (vi) as of the beginning of the City's current fiscal year, the aggregate amount of outstanding principal of the City's debt obligations was \$1,378,485,000 and the aggregate amount of outstanding interest on the City's debt obligations was \$494,427,000, and (vii) the City's ad valorem debt service tax rate as of the date of adoption of this ordinance is \$.1055 per \$100 of taxable property.

Based upon market conditions as of the date of this ordinance and using taxable assessed values for the 2017 tax year (2017/2018 fiscal year), without adjustment for anticipated growth in taxable assessed value in future years, if the bonds and notes are authorized, the estimated total tax rate of the City is expected to be approximately \$.5440 per \$100 of taxable assessed value, (which represents an increase of \$.0992 per \$100 taxable assessed valuation as compared to the City's total tax rate as of the date of the adoption of this ordinance), based on current State law, which is subject to change. The estimated total tax rate represents the sum of (i) the most recently adopted tax rate for operations and maintenance, which is \$.3393 per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation, plus (ii) the estimated tax rate for debt obligations of the City, including the bonds and notes, which is expected to be approximately \$.2047 per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation.

If approved by voters, the bonds and notes will be secured by an ad valorem tax that is sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and notes and to provide a sinking fund to pay the bonds and notes. Actual tax rates, interest rates, maturity dates, aggregate outstanding indebtedness and interest on such debt, will only be established and known at the time that bonds and notes are issued. In addition, actual tax rates will depend upon, among other factors, the assessed valuation of taxable property, prevailing interest rates, the market for the City's bonds and notes and general market conditions at the time that bonds and notes are issued.

The estimated tax rates and other statements contained in this Part 11 are (i) based on certain assumptions (including assumptions concerning prevailing market and economic conditions at the time(s) of issuance of the bonds and notes) and derived from projections obtained from the City's financial advisor, (ii) subject to change to the extent that actual facts, circumstances and conditions prevailing at the time that the bonds and notes are issued differ from such assumptions and projections, (iii) provided solely in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 3.009, Texas Election Code, and for no other purpose, without any assurance that such projections will be realized, and (iv) not intended to give rise to a contract with voters or limit the authority of the Council to issue bonds and notes in accordance with the propositions submitted herein.

If the issuance of bonds and notes is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition to issue bonds and notes for affordable housing (Proposition E), funding of affordable housing projects shall be in accordance with guidelines of the City relating to affordable housing now and hereafter existing, including but not limited to guidelines for rental housing, home ownership and home repair. The guidelines have been developed by staff after consulting with bond counsel. The guidelines governing affordable housing projects comprise a program established in part under authority of Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code, relating to the issuance of ad valorem tax supported obligations for this purpose, and Council approves and affirms this program, the guidelines governing the program and their application to the issuance of bonds and notes for affordable housing purposes.

PART 12. The election shall be conducted between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The precincts and locations of the election day polling places; the dates, hours, and locations of the early voting places; and the names of the officers appointed to conduct the election are provided in Exhibits A-D attached and incorporated as a part of this ordinance.

PART 13. A direct electronic recording voting system, as the term is defined in Title 8 of the Texas Election Code, shall be used for early voting and for voting conducted on election day. The central counting station is established at the Travis County Elections Division, 5501 Airport Boulevard, Austin, Texas.

PART 14. (a) Notice of this election shall be given by posting and publishing a copy of this ordinance in both English and Spanish. The notice and a copy of this ordinance shall be posted, in both English and Spanish, in three public places and at the City Hall notice kiosk not later than the 21st day before election day. The copy of the notice posted at City Hall shall be accompanied by a cover page, at the top of which shall appear the words "MUNICIPAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER 6, 2018." Notice of this election shall be published, not earlier than the 30th day before the date of the election, in a newspaper of general circulation on the same day in each of two successive weeks, with the first publication occurring before the 14th day before the date of the election.

(b) A copy of this ordinance shall be posted, in both English and Spanish, on election day and during early voting by personal appearance, in a prominent location at each polling place.

(c) This ordinance, together with the notice of election and the contents of the Propositions, shall be posted on the City's website, in both English and Spanish, during the twenty-one (21) days before the election.

PART 15. In accordance with Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code, the November 6, 2018 municipal election may be held jointly with the various political subdivisions that share territory with the City of Austin and that are holding elections on that day. The City Clerk may enter and sign joint election agreements with other political subdivisions for this purpose, and their terms as stated in the agreements are hereby adopted.

PART 16. The Council finds that the need to immediately begin required preparations for this election constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

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§
§

_____, 2018

Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: _____

Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

1790

Exhibits A – D (to be updated)

1791 *Exhibit A: Election Day Polling Places*

1792 *Exhibit B: Main Early Voting Location Information*

1793 *Exhibit C: Early Voting Polling Places*

1794 *Exhibit D: Election Services Contract*

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