



## Charter Amendments

A special election has been called to offer voters the opportunity to vote on proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of Friendswood. The charter was originally approved by the voters in 1971 and amended in 1988 and 1992. The charter outlines the basic structure of our city government and serves to guide city council and employees. It is reviewed every five years by a commission appointed by city council. This year, the commission made several recommendations for amendments to city council. These recommendations have been reviewed carefully and amendments have been placed on a ballot for consideration by the voters.

The current charter review commission was appointed by city council in January 1996. Members are Steve Huffman, Ed Driskill, Paul Jury, Florence Crawford, Ted Low, Blaise Guzzetta and Lynda Harris. The commission submitted its final report to city council on August 13, 1996. Twenty-two propositions on proposed amendments to the charter have been placed on the May 3, 1997 election ballot.

All records of the proceedings of the charter review commission are located in the city secretary's office and available for viewing. Copies of the charter are located in the city secretary's office and the library, as well as other city departments.

### PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the second sentence of Section 2.03 of Article II of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, which provides that the City exercise the power of eminent domain by the laws governing the condemnation of property of railroad operations, be deleted in its entirety?

### PROPOSITION NO. 2

Shall the third paragraph of Section 2.05 of Article II of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, which provides procedures for the adoption of ordinances relating to street development and improvement, including requirements for distribution of any such proposed ordinance to the council, the city attorney, and citizens who have requested same, and the authorization for the council to finally adopt any such ordinance on one (1) reading, be deleted in its entirety?

### PROPOSITION NO. 3

Shall Section 2.06 of Article II of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that the period of time for which a notice of claim shall be given for damages for personal injury or death, or destruction of property, shall be ninety (90) days?

### PROPOSITION NO. 4

Shall the second paragraph of Section 3.01 of Article III of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to delete provisions imposing term limitations on the offices of mayor and councilmembers?

### PROPOSITION NO. 5

Shall Subparagraph (b) of the third paragraph of Section 3.01 of Article III of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to clarify that the election for the initial three-year term of office of mayor shall be the general election held in 1994?

### PROPOSITION NO. 6

Shall the third paragraph of Section 3.03 of Article III of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that all meetings of the council shall be held in accordance with applicable open meetings laws?

### PROPOSITION NO. 7

Shall a new paragraph (5) be added to Subsection (a) of Section 4.04 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, to provide that a written notice of appointment shall be given by the city secretary to each person appointed by the mayor or council to any board, commission, committee, or other appointive office or position, within five (5) working days following such appointment?

### PROPOSITION NO. 8

Shall the first and second sentences of Subsection C of Section 4.06 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that no city employee, or person seeking employment with the city, shall be discriminated against because of his or her color, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or membership or non-membership in employee organizations, and to provide that except to the extent authorized by state or federal law in conflict herewith, no appointive officer or employee shall make a contribution to the campaign fund of any person seeking election to a city office?

### PROPOSITION NO. 9

Shall the first sentence of the second paragraph of Subsection (e) of Section 5.04 of Article V of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that the city secretary shall determine the sufficiency of an amended initiative or referendum petition within five (5) working days following the filing of same?

### PROPOSITION NO. 10

Shall paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of the first paragraph of Subsection (b), of Section 5.06 of Article V of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that a special election on an ordinance pursuant to an initiative or referendum petition shall be held on the first uniform election date falling forty-five (45) days or more after determination by council that the initiative or referendum petition is sufficient?

### PROPOSITION NO. 11

Shall paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of Section 6.02 of Article VI of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that no person shall be eligible as a candidate for an elective city office unless such person is at least twenty-one (21) years of age?

### PROPOSITION NO. 12

Shall paragraph (7) of Subsection (a) of Section 6.02 of Article VI of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that no person holding a city appointive office of emolument shall continue in such position after becoming a candidate for an elective office?

**PROPOSITION NO. 13**

Shall the last sentence of Subsection (b) of Section 6.02 of Article VI of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that nomination petitions for an elective city office shall be filed with the city secretary not earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the next uniform election date as set forth in the Texas Election Code, or later than the normal posted close of business for the office of the city secretary on the last day for which applications for candidacy are allowed to be filed for an election on such next uniform election date?

**PROPOSITION NO. 14**

Shall the first sentence of Subsection (a) of Section 6.04 of Article VI of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that the returns of each city election shall be delivered from the election judges to the city secretary at city hall not later than three (3) hours after the closing of the polls, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable?

**PROPOSITION NO. 15**

Shall Section 8.05 of Article VII of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended by adding thereto a new Subsection (f) to provide that the city council shall be prohibited from incurring debt not payable from then current revenues unless approved by the voters at a special election held for such purpose, unless the incurring of the debt is necessary due to an emergency or urgent public necessity?

**PROPOSITION NO. 16**

Shall Subsection (b) of Section 8.07 of Article VIII of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that the city manager shall submit to the council each month a report detailing the financial condition of the city by budget amounts versus fiscal year to date amounts, and that financial records of the city shall be maintained in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

**PROPOSITION NO. 17**

Shall paragraph (d) of Section 9.07 of Article IX of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that any grant, renewal, extension, or amendment of any public utility franchise shall be subject to the right of the city to prescribe the form of accounts to be kept by each such utility?

**PROPOSITION NO. 18**

Shall Subsection (b) of Section 9.10 of Article IX of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that public service corporations operating within the city which fail to file annual reports of receipts from their operations shall be liable to the city in the amount of \$1,000 per day for each day during which the default continues, and if any such report is filed with the knowledge of the public service corporation that information contained therein is false, shall be liable to the city in the amount of \$5,000 for each such willfully false report?

**PROPOSITION NO. 19**

Shall Article X of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, which Article X contains transitional provisions applicable to the period immediately following adoption of the original Charter, be deleted from the Charter in its entirety?

**PROPOSITION NO. 20**

Shall Section 11.01 of Article XI of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that records of the city shall be maintained and available for public inspection as provided by applicable state and federal open records laws?

**PROPOSITION NO. 21**

Shall the introductory paragraph of Section 11.09 of Article XI of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that the council shall appoint at its first regular meeting in July of every fifth year after approval of the Charter, a charter review commission composed of seven (7) citizens of the city?

**PROPOSITION NO. 22**

Shall paragraph (b) of Section 11.09 of Article XI of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, be amended to provide that upon receipt of a final report from a charter review commission, the council shall consider any recommendations made and, if deemed appropriate by the council, submit any such proposed changes to the voters of the city at a special election to be held for such purpose; and provided further that no such election shall be held unless such proposed amendments have been published not less than forty-five (45) nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date set for such election?

**Don't Forget To Vote!**

**Saturday, May 3, 1997**

**7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

