



Charter Committees in Nevada



CHARTER COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 25, 2024

Charter Committees in Nevada

▶ **Cities with Charter Committees:**

- ▶ Henderson
- ▶ Reno
- ▶ Sparks
- ▶ Mesquite
- ▶ Carson City
- ▶ North Las Vegas

Henderson Charter Committee

- ▶ **Formed in 2013**
- ▶ **Previous Recommendations**
 - ▶ **2014 – No Recommendations.**
 - ▶ **2016 – Not pursued by the City as a BDR, but supported in a bill introduced by a legislator.**
 - ▶ Recommended revision to Charter to provide the option to use an all-mail ballot election system for municipal elections.
 - ▶ **2018 – Not pursued by the City as a BDR, but vacancy issues addressed in AB50 that moved municipal elections to even numbered years.**
 - ▶ Streamline the City's ordinance introduction process and eliminate separate Council committee meeting.
 - ▶ Provide consistency for the process of filling a vacancy in the Office of Mayor in the same manner as a vacancy for other Councilmembers.
 - ▶ Affirmed 2016 committee recommendation.
 - ▶ **2020 and 2022 Charter Committees: Mayor and Council did not move forward on recommendation.**
 - ▶ Affirmed committee recommendation to streamline city's ordinance introduction process.

Reno Charter Committee

- ▶ **Codified in 2013**
- ▶ **Previous Recommendations**
 - ▶ **2014 – Passed by the Legislature as AB88.**
 - ▶ Expands number of appointed employees to four percent of full time positions or 40 positions.
 - ▶ Started discussions that went into the next interim.
 - ▶ **2016 – Major Overhaul of Charter, Passed by the Legislature as AB36.**
 - ▶ Clarified/Strengthened provisions establishing Reno’s Council-Manager Governance.
 - ▶ Required Councilmembers to file quarterly campaign finance disclosures.
 - ▶ Required Ward-only voting City Council candidates in the general election.
 - ▶ Eliminated at-large position council position by 2024 election.

Reno Charter Committee

- ▶ **Previous Recommendations Continued**
 - ▶ **2018 – Recommendations not pursued by the City**
 - ▶ Changing frequency and manner in which Council draws ward boundaries
 - ▶ Increase frequency for filing campaign finance reports.
 - ▶ Replace gender pronouns with gender neutral language.
 - ▶ **2020 – Recommendations not pursued by City, meetings limited by pandemic**
 - ▶ Continued support for gender neutral language changes.
 - ▶ **2022 – Recommendations pursued by City, but not by Legislature**
 - ▶ Replace gender pronouns with gender neutral language.
 - ▶ Repeal election changes from 2016 scheduled to take effect in 2024.
 - ▶ Requirements for a Chief Equity Officer appointment and inclusive community engagement processes.
 - ▶ Addition of green infrastructure projects to the list of project types that could be authorized under local improvement law.

Sparks Charter Committee

- ▶ **Formed in 1975.**
- ▶ **Previous Recommendations**
 - ▶ **2012 – Recommendations pursued through legislator in SB304 with city.**
 - ▶ Clarifies City Manager authority over appointed employees.
 - ▶ Authorized City Council to employ special counsel.
 - ▶ Removed duplicative language shared between Charter Committee & Civil Service Commission.
 - ▶ **2014 – Recommendations pursued through legislator in SB118 with city.**
 - ▶ Brought city in compliance with a recent Nevada Supreme Court ruling that required separation of the Executive and Judicial Branch for the City of Sparks.

Sparks Charter Committee

▶ Previous Recommendations Continued

- ▶ 2016 - Recommendations pursued through legislator in SB202 with city.
 - ▶ Required candidates for judges in municipal courts to be members of the Nevada State Bar.
 - ▶ Changed elections for Council members from a hybrid ward only in the primary and at-large in the general to ward only for both.
- ▶ 2018 – No recommendations.
- ▶ 2020 - Recommendations pursued through legislator in SB82 with city.
 - ▶ Automatic declaration of winner if only one candidate filed for a race.
 - ▶ Straight to a general if only two candidates but there must be a primary when there are more candidates with the top two going to general if no one receives a majority.
- ▶ 2022 – No recommendations.

Mesquite Charter Committee

- ▶ **Codified in 2017 (Alongside the City Charter)**
- ▶ **Previous Recommendations**
 - ▶ **2018 – No recommendations.**
 - ▶ **2020 – Recommendation in agreement with City Council, taken up by legislators, passed as SB127.**
 - ▶ **Revised the procedure for nominating individuals for the appointment of city manager and city attorney.**
 - ▶ **2022 – No recommendations.**

Carson City Charter Committee

- ▶ Formed in 1999
- ▶ Previous Recommendations
 - ▶ 2012 – No recommendations.
 - ▶ 2014 – No recommendations, but policy change to have Chair represent Committee in Legislature when discussing charter changes.
 - ▶ 2016, 2018, and 2020 – No recommendations.
 - ▶ 2022 – Recommendations pursued by the City as a BDR, passed by Legislature as SB16.
 - ▶ Allows Mayor Pro Tempore to fill in for vacancy in the Mayor's Office, clarifies terms lengths for Board of Supervisors, and extension of time for the Board to pass an ordinance.
 - ▶ Also requires realignment of wards in case population discrepancy between wards exceeds 5% instead of January 1 of the year of a general election for Board of Supervisors seats.

QUESTIONS?

