

Proposed Tempe City Charter Amendments

Please provide comments on the proposed amendments to the Tempe City Charter.

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of April 4, 2014, 8:59 AM



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Introduction

The City of Tempe is currently collecting input into proposed amendments to the Tempe City Charter for the August 26, 2014 Special Election. The City of Tempe does not support or oppose any of the proposed Charter amendments.

The city is also holding a public forum to obtain input on Thursday, March 27, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the community room of the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern. The language of the proposed amendments will be presented and residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. This meeting will be held solely for the purposes of providing information on proposed language and obtaining community feedback. Depending on public input, any or all of the proposed Charter amendments may be placed on the August Primary Election ballot.

For questions, contact the City Clerk's Office at clerk@tempe.gov or 480-350-8241. For information on all 2014 city elections, visit www.tempe.gov/election.

For reference, the full City Charter is available at www.tempe.gov/citycharter.

The proposed Charter amendments include: aligning the Equal Rights section (Section 9.01(a)(1)) to reflect the protected categories defined in the recently approved City Council ordinance O2014.10; establishing alternates for the Merit System Board (Section 4.02(c)); extending the time period from 90 to 180 days for parties to bring claims against the city (Section 5.03), in accordance with the time period in state law; and changing language throughout, such as moving from "Councilmen" to "Councilmembers," to reflect gender neutrality.

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As of April 4, 2014, 8:59 AM, this forum had:

Attendees:	138
All Statements:	15
Minutes of Public Comment:	45

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Name not available (unclaimed)

April 1, 2014, 9:23 PM

The protected classes of people in Tempe should not exceed the federally protected classes of people: age, race, sex, national origin, religious affiliation.

Name not shown inside Tempe (unverified)

April 1, 2014, 5:20 PM

Merit Board -- ok but define 'resident'. Does this include one under 18 years age? Illegal residents? Maybe should be qualified to vote (doesn't have to mean registered or voters)

Name not shown inside Tempe (on forum)

March 27, 2014, 4:26 PM

Disagree with the need for gender neutral titles for the council....we now refer to the council as councilman, councilwoman, what else?

Name not shown inside Tempe (unverified)

March 27, 2014, 8:26 AM

Equal Rights Amendment: I propose NOT to muddy the waters and amend the statement as follows, which encompasses everyone:

"...respect to any city position because of race, GENDER, AGE, political or religious affiliation..."

Name not available (unclaimed)

March 27, 2014, 7:50 AM

I would like to commend the City of Tempe for once again proving itself to be a forward-thinking local government. Each of the proposed changes to the charter represents an expansion of rights for residents within the City's jurisdiction. I am particularly pleased with the language proposed for protected groups. Well done! I wish I were still a voter there in order to support them. But I hope that all my second home neighbors will take the opportunity to do so!

Name not shown inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 5:07 PM

I think resident needs to be defined. Can an illegal immigrant who resides in Tempe qualify for this position? I believe a citizen who is able to vote or can serve in an elected position can be picked for the position.

1 Supporter

susan soroka inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 5:04 PM

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Merit System Board: I believe if a person is making decisions that effect Tempe or the operations within Tempe, he/she needs to be required to be a "qualified elector" if defined as a resident who is 18 years or older and registered to vote in Tempe elections.

I totally support the Equal Rights changes.

3 Supporters

Jack Matlaga inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 4:15 PM

Resident needs to be defined clearly, if it is not already defined elsewhere in the charter. I dont think many in the city would like to see a student paying out-of-state tuition, for example, appointed to these posts.

I would add that the gender neutrality changes dont take into consideration that some in the lgbt community take umbrage with the idea of having to identify as either a "he" or a "she." Instead of he/she, perhaps the better alternative in such a progressive city would be to simply refer to "the councilmember" as follows:

For example, instead of "A councilmember is responsible for his or her conduct" to "A councilmember is responsible for the councilmember's conduct" because that would be truly gender-neutral, and considerate of the choices of all communities.

Name not shown inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 4:03 PM

Most of the proposed changes seem reasonable. The exception is that changing "electors" to "residents" does not make sense, someone who is not voting should not have a place of responsibility.

1 Supporter

Name not shown inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 1:26 PM

If this is an attempt to make representatives out of those who cannot register to vote (nor stand for election), then I certainly DO NOT SUPPORT this word change.

Otherwise, I don't believe it's a burden to expect a representative of the political process (appointed or elected) to be *bothered* to register to vote and therefore be "qualified" as much as those who would vote for them (if they stood for election).

1 Supporter

Name not available (unclaimed)

March 26, 2014, 12:27 PM

This update request seem quite fair to me.

Name not shown inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 12:26 PM

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As with other commenters.. why the change and why "residents"? What's the definition of "resident"? Will a 3 year-old be able to fulfill this obligation... an exchange student from Mali? Seems the regulations that apply to registered voters are a proper guideline for citizenship, ergo government-related positions. No passers-by, please.

2 Supporters

Name not shown inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 11:57 AM

All changes seem to be appropriate. The change from "elector" to "resident", although not clear why it is needed, is also acceptable to me. As long as the person is a resident of Tempe, they should be allowed to serve.

2 Supporters

Name not shown inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 11:51 AM

I find the amendments reasonable and appropriate.

2 Supporters

Matt Papke inside Tempe (on forum)

March 26, 2014, 11:40 AM

For the most part these Amendments seem to be good for the city. I do respect and support the amendment to affirm equal opportunity for employment. Government has no place limiting opportunity.

When it comes to the name change of the "qualified electors to RESIDENTS" I do have some concern. Residents do not mean voters. Residents who engage in the political process deserve recognition and support and are the qualified electors. I am against the language change, and do not understand the desire to change it.

Regarding the merit board, I would need to better understand the reason alternates are needed and the methods by which they may be called upon before I could comment further.

3 Supporters
