



**Charter  
Amendment  
Election**



**2018**

The City of Webster adopted a home rule charter in January of 1994 establishing the council/manager form of government still in place today. A revised charter was approved in 1999 and was amended in 2005, 2011, and 2016. The Webster City Council has called for a Special Election for City Charter Amendments on November 6, 2018 that will include 5 amendments. For this November 6, 2018 election, the City has partnered with Harris County. ***The Webster propositions will be at the end of the ballot.*** Early Voting is October 22 – November 2. Election Day polling place is the Webster Recreation Center located at 311 Pennsylvania. Early Voting dates and times are as determined by the Harris County Clerk. The following information details the proposed amendments.

**Proposition No. A** amends the term limits for mayor and council members. Currently, the mayor and council members can be elected for no more than two consecutive three-year terms. The mayor, upon completion of a second consecutive full term as mayor, is not eligible to be a candidate for councilmember and each respective councilmember, upon completion of a second consecutive full term, is not eligible to be a candidate for mayor for one full year. This amendment would allow the mayor and councilmembers to serve for three-year terms until another candidate receives more votes to win an election. This amendment has no expected budget impact.

**Proposition No. B** addresses the status of the Municipal Court and designating it as a Municipal Court of Record in the City of Webster. The City of Webster adopted an ordinance to designate the Webster Court as a Court of Record. A Municipal Court of Record is necessary to provide a more efficient disposition of cases arising in the municipality. Previously defendants were able to appeal a case to Harris County for any/no reason. Harris County would seldom hear a City of Webster appealed case, due to its case load. This would cause the appealed case to be dismissed. Even if Harris County hear a Webster case, any assessed fine upon a guilty verdict would be received by Harris County instead of the City of Webster. As a Municipal Court of Record, a defendant may appeal but only on the basis of an error made during the court

proceedings. This item aligns the Charter with the adopted ordinance. This amendment has no expected budget impact.

**Proposition No. C** amends the requirement for the Municipal Court Judge and Associate Judges to practice in the State of Texas for two or more years and requires them to be a resident of the State of Texas. This amendment clarifies the qualifications of the Webster Municipal Court Judge and Associate Judges requiring that they must be a resident of the State. This amendment has no expected budget impact.

**Proposition No. D** amends the requirement for appointment of the Municipal Clerk to be appointed by passage of an ordinance of the City Council. This amendment aligns the Charter with State Law as Webster operates as a Municipal Court of Record. This amendment has no expected budget impact.

**Proposition No. E** addresses the appellate method for the assistant city manager. Currently the Charter allows the City Manager to remove, suspend or discharge any and all department heads. This amendment allows the same discipline for the position of Assistant City Manager. This amendment also allows the Assistant City Manager the same opportunity to appeal disciplinary actions to the Mayor and City Council as the department directors are currently allowed.