

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



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July 24, 2024

Vice Mayor Angie Emery Henderson  
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County  
1 Public Square, Suite 204  
Nashville, TN 37201

Re: Metropolitan Charter Revision Commission Recommendations

Dear Vice Mayor Henderson,

On behalf of the Charter Revision Commission of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, this letter constitutes the recommendations made by the Commission at its meeting on July 12, 2024, with respect to the proposed Charter amendments included in Metro Council Resolution RS2024-559.

The Commission considered each of the proposed Charter amendments individually and made recommendations as follows:

The Commission made unanimous recommendations of approval of two of the Charter amendment proposals:

- Amended proposal to designate an eligible officer within the Finance Department to serve as interim Finance Director in the event of a vacancy – Sponsor CM Sheri Weiner
- Proposed amendment changing the requirement for councilmembers to attain the age of 25, and instead requiring them to be a qualified voter – Sponsor CM John Rutherford

The Commission made recommendations of disapproval of two of the Charter amendment proposals:

- Proposed amendment designating the metropolitan treasurer to serve as interim Finance Director in the event of a vacancy – Sponsor CM Sheri Weiner
- Proposed amendment providing that no regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council may be held in the month of September – Sponsor CM Kyonzté Toombs

The Commission did not consider one of the Charter amendment proposals, with the understanding that it will be withdrawn by the Council.

- Proposed amendment removing the U.S. citizenship requirement for Fire Department employees – Sponsor CM Sheri Weiner and CM John Rutherford

In addition, the Commission recommended that the Council adopt an amendment to revise the recommended Charter proposals to be in a format consistent with the requirements of Charter Section 19.02(a). Copies of the five proposed amendments are hereby attached and include the Commission's recommendations.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,  
Austin Kyle

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin Kyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Metropolitan Clerk,  
Secretary of the Charter Revision Commission

Cc:

Mr. Dewey Branstetter, Charter Revision Commission Chair  
Council Member Sheri Weiner, Charter Revision Committee Chair  
Ms. Margaret Darby, Council Director  
Ms. Nicki Eke, Legal Counsel

Enclosures

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_  
TO  
RESOLUTION NO. RS2024-559

Madam President –

I hereby move to amend Charter Amendment 1 to Resolution No. RS2024-559 as follows:

I. By amending Section I as follows:

I. Section 8.102 of Article 8 of the Charter of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County shall be amended as follows:

Sec. 8.102. – Director of finance—Qualifications, appointment and vacancy.

The director of finance shall have proven administrative ability and a well-founded reputation in public finance, or a record of exceptional performance for at least five (5) years as a comptroller or financial head of a large business. The mayor shall appoint the director of finance subject to confirmation by a majority of the whole membership of the council. He or she shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor making the appointment and until his or her successor is qualified. The director's salary shall be fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars per annum, payable semimonthly. In the absence of the director of finance or in the event of a vacancy in his or her office, the ~~metropolitan treasurer~~ mayor shall appoint via communication to the metropolitan council an individual who shall perform the duties thereof until the director returns or the vacancy is filled. This individual shall be selected from among the budget officer, chief accountant, and metropolitan treasurer, and he or she shall serve for no more than 90 days prior to confirmation as interim finance director by a majority of the whole membership of the council.

II. By deleting the summary language following “For the Ballot” and replacing it with the following:

This amendment would designate ~~the metropolitan treasurer, a specific position~~ an eligible officer within the department of finance, to perform the duties of the finance director for a limited time in the absence of the finance director and if the office of finance director becomes vacant.

SPONSORED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri Weiner  
Member of Council

\*Charter Revision Commission recommended Approval (7-0)

AMENDMENT NO. 3

I. Section 3.02 of Article 3 of the Charter of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County shall be amended as follows:

Sec. 3.02. - Terms; compensation; age and residence qualification.

Members of the council shall serve for a term of four (4) years and until their successors are elected and qualified; and shall be compensated at the rate of three hundred (\$300) dollars per month. No person shall be eligible to serve as councilmember-at-large or district councilmember unless he or she shall be a qualified voter, pursuant to Tennessee state law, at the beginning of his or her term and unless he or she shall have been a resident of the area of the metropolitan government for a period of one (1) year and shall continue to reside therein during his or her period of service. No person shall be eligible to serve as district councilmember unless he or she shall have been a resident of the district for which elected for a period of six (6) months and shall continue to reside therein during his or her period of service. Members of the council shall hold no other elective or appointive office in the metropolitan government or employment by said government, except as expressly provided in this Charter.

FOR THE BALLOT

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_

This amendment would remove the requirement that councilmembers attain the age of 25. This amendment would instead require a councilmember-at-large or district councilmember to be a qualified voter, pursuant to Tennessee state law.

INTRODUCED BY:

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John Rutherford  
Member of Council

\*Charter Revision Commission recommended Approval (7-0)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

I. Section 8.102 of Article 8 of the Charter of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County shall be amended as follows:

Sec. 8.102. – Director of finance—Qualifications, appointment and vacancy.

The director of finance shall have proven administrative ability and a well founded reputation in public finance, or a record of exceptional performance for at least five (5) years as a comptroller or financial head of a large business. The mayor shall appoint the director of finance subject to confirmation by a majority of the whole membership of the council. He or she shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor making the appointment and until his or her successor is qualified. The director's salary shall be fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars per annum, payable semimonthly. In the absence of the director of finance or in the event of a vacancy in his or her office, the metropolitan treasurer shall perform the duties thereof until the director returns or the vacancy is filled.

FOR THE BALLOT

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_

This amendment would designate the metropolitan treasurer, a specific position within the department of finance, to perform the duties of the finance director in the absence of the finance director and if the office of finance director becomes vacant.

INTRODUCED BY:

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Sheri Weiner  
John Rutherford  
Members of Council

\*Charter Revision Commission recommended Disapproval (7-0)

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_  
TO  
RESOLUTION NO. RS2024-559

Madam President –

I move to amend Resolution No. RS2024-559 by adding the following proposed additional amendment to the Charter of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson, following “Amendment No. 3”:

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

I. Section 3.04 of Article 3 of the Charter of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County shall be amended as follows:

Sec. 3.04. - Regular meetings; adjourned meetings; special meetings.

The council shall hold regular meetings only on the first and third Tuesday of each month and may hold an adjourned meeting of a regular meeting on any week day or hour it may fix. However, no regular meeting of the council shall be held during the month of September. At such an adjourned meeting the council may transact any business which it might transact at a regular meeting. Special meetings of the council may be held when called by the mayor or vice mayor and shall be called by either official when the public welfare requires it or when requested in writing by a majority (21) of the members of the council. At least forty-eight (48) hours' written notice shall be given for any special meeting, stating the object or objects thereof, and the business of such meeting shall be restricted to the objects so stated. All meetings of the council shall be open to the public and shall be held in a metropolitan building unless by reasons of casualty a different meeting place shall be selected, with public announcement thereof.

FOR THE BALLOT

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_

This amendment provides that no regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council may be held in the month of September. Special or adjourned meetings of the Metropolitan Council could still be held in September.

INTRODUCED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyonzte Toombs  
Members of Council

\*Charter Revision Commission recommended Disapproval (7-0)

AMENDMENT NO. 2

I. Section 8.306 of Article 8 of the Charter of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County shall be amended as follows:

Sec. 8.306. - Qualifications of personnel.

After the effective date of this Charter, no person shall be eligible to appointment to any position in the department except as a regular salaried employee in the classified service. Every appointee shall meet such physical requirements as shall be prescribed by the civil service commission and shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the civil service commission.

To determine whether applicants for positions in the department possess the required physical qualifications, the director of health may provide for conducting physical examinations and report his or her findings to the civil service commission.

FOR THE BALLOT

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_

This amendment would remove the United States citizenship requirement for Fire Department employees. Fire Department employees will instead need to be authorized to work in the United States in accordance with federal law.

INTRODUCED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri Weiner  
John Rutherford  
Members of Council

\*Charter Revision Commission gave no recommendation as the amendment is being withdrawn by the Council