

2025 Charter Amendment Election Summary

In March 2025, the Decatur City Council appointed a Charter Review Commission, consisting of 8 citizens, to complete a comprehensive review of the City’s Home Rule Charter. The Charter Review Commission presented the final recommendations to City Council at the July 14, 2025, City Council Meeting. Based on the recommendations from the Charter Review Commission, at the July 28, 2025, City Council Meeting, the City Council called for a Charter Amendment Election to be held on November 4, 2025.

The Decatur Home Rule Charter is the governing document which established the City of Decatur as a home-rule city and defines the structure, powers, duties and authority of Decatur as a local government. Below are Propositions A through X, which if approved, would amend the Decatur Home Rule Charter.

<p>Proposition A</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to correct non-substantive capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure errors and remove references to outdated position titles, functions, or word usage?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment proposes minor, non-substantive edits to the City Charter. It would correct grammar, punctuation, and formatting inconsistencies and remove outdated job titles and terminology—without changing the meaning or function of any provisions.</p>
<p>Proposition B</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to remove non-substantive references to specific state laws that may change over time and replace those references with a general reference to “state law” except in reference to the Texas Open Meetings Act?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would simplify the Charter by replacing outdated or overly specific references to state laws with a general reference to “state law.” The only exception is the Texas Open Meetings Act, which will continue to be named directly. The change is non-substantive and intended to keep the Charter accurate as laws evolve.</p>
<p>Proposition C</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to eliminate the portions of the Charter that are preempted by state law and to add clauses to recognize that if a conflict arises between the Charter and state law that state law prevails?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would remove Charter provisions that are already overridden by state law and add language confirming that, in any conflict between the Charter and state law, state law takes precedence.</p>
<p>Proposition D</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to adjust City Council terms from four 2-year terms to three 3-year terms and establish a schedule through which the new 3-year terms shall take effect to assure that one city-wide election shall occur each year?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would change City Council term limits from a maximum of four 2-year terms to three 3-year terms. It would also establish a transition schedule to ensure that one city-wide election is held each year, maintaining consistent voter engagement and staggered representation.</p>
<p>Proposition E</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to clarify that candidates for the positions of Mayor and Councilmember must be at least 21 years old on the day of their election or appointment?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that individuals running for Mayor or Councilmember must be at least 21 years old on the day they are elected or appointed. It formalizes an age requirement regarding the establishment of candidate eligibility.</p>
<p>Proposition F</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to state that no candidate for Mayor or Councilmember may be in arrears in payment of taxes or other liabilities due to the City of Decatur, Texas?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would require that candidates for Mayor or Councilmember be current on all taxes and financial obligations owed to the City of Decatur.</p>

<p>Proposition G</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to require candidates for elected office to maintain the qualifications of office consistently from the date the candidate files their application to run for office forward?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would require candidates for elected office to continuously meet all eligibility requirements from the moment they file to run through the duration of their candidacy.</p>
<p>Proposition H</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to clarify the duties of the Mayor to remove outdated powers and to follow state law provisions regarding mayoral duties?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would update the Charter to remove outdated or obsolete mayoral powers and align the Mayor's duties with current state law. The goal is to ensure the Charter reflects modern governance standards and legal requirements.</p>
<p>Proposition I</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to make it clear that the Mayor and City Attorney can place items on agendas for City Council meetings?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that both the Mayor and the City Attorney have the authority to place items on City Council meeting agendas. It formalizes existing practice and ensures transparency in how agenda items are initiated.</p>
<p>Proposition J</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to make it clear that the City Attorney's duty to represent the City includes all foreseen, contemplated, or pending litigation and solidify the City Attorney's rights of access to the City's evidence to include administrative remedies as directed by the City Manager?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that the City Attorney is responsible for representing the City in all legal matters – whether anticipated, ongoing, or pending. It also affirms the City Attorney's right to access relevant evidence, including administrative remedies, as directed by the City Manager. The goal is to ensure comprehensive legal representation and procedural clarity along with consistency.</p>
<p>Proposition K</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to add the position and duties of the City Secretary?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would formally add the position of City Secretary to the Charter and define the role's duties. It ensures the Charter reflects the City Secretary's responsibilities in maintaining official records, supporting council operations, and facilitating transparent governance.</p>
<p>Proposition L</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to clarify that a majority vote of the City Council is required for the filling of a vacancy on the City Council?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that filling a vacancy on the City Council requires a majority vote of the Council. It reinforces transparent decision-making and ensures alignment with standard voting procedures.</p>
<p>Proposition M</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to clarify that in the instance of a recall election, if the recall election results in a tie vote, the recall petition did not pass with a majority of votes cast, and the elected official shall continue in office?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that in a recall election, a tie vote means the recall petition did not pass. In such cases, the elected official would remain in office. The change reinforces the principle that a majority vote is required to remove an official.</p>

<p>Proposition N</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to clarify that in a forfeiture of office action, the $\frac{3}{4}$ vote required of the of the entire membership of the City Council excludes the Councilmember who is the subject of the forfeiture vote?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that when the City Council votes on a forfeiture of office, the required $\frac{3}{4}$ vote is calculated based on the total membership excluding the Councilmember facing forfeiture. This ensures fairness and avoids a conflict of interest in the voting process.</p>
<p>Proposition O</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to clarify that a Mayor or up to one (1) Councilmember may serve on a board, committee, or commission that is advisory in nature?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that the Mayor or one Councilmember may serve on advisory boards, committees, or commissions. It formalizes participation limits to preserve council neutrality while allowing input on advisory matters.</p>
<p>Proposition P</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to include electronic publications in the list of allowable publication methods when publication of documents or notices is required unless state law requires otherwise?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would allow the City to use electronic publications—such as online postings—as an approved method for publishing official documents or notices, unless state law requires a different format. It modernizes communication practices while maintaining legal compliance.</p>
<p>Proposition Q</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to adjust the term of office of the Municipal Judge to the minimum allowable term provided by state law?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would adjust the Municipal Judge's term of office to match the shortest term permitted under state law. It ensures the Charter remains compliant with legal standards while allowing flexibility in judicial appointments.</p>
<p>Proposition R</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to incorporate into the Charter the provisions of the 2010 ordinance creating the Decatur Municipal Court of Record?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would formally incorporate into the Charter the provisions of the 2010 ordinance that established the Decatur Municipal Court of Record. It ensures the Charter reflects the court's legal foundation and operational structure as previously adopted by ordinance.</p>
<p>Proposition S</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to adjust the time period for which the court must keep a recorded copy of a trial from 21 days to 120 days to allow for the operation of the appellate timetable?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would extend the required retention period for recorded trial copies from 21 days to 120 days. The change aligns with appellate timelines, ensuring that trial records remain available for review during the appeals process.</p>
<p>Proposition T</p> <p>Shall the Charter be amended to clarify that the City may conduct elections and secure election judges through contract with another governmental entity, such as Wise County?</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>This amendment would clarify that the City may contract with another governmental entity—such as Wise County—to conduct elections and provide election judges. It formalizes existing practices and supports efficient, legally compliant election administration.</p>

Proposition U

Shall the Charter be amended to require all employees who handle money to execute surety bonds?

Summary

This amendment would require all City employees who handle money to execute surety bonds. The change strengthens financial accountability and protects public funds by ensuring bonded coverage for those in positions of fiscal responsibility.

Estimated Financial Impact:

The cost of implementing this requirement is approximately \$500 per employee who handles City funds. With 50 employees needing bonds, the estimated total would be \$25,000. Actual expenses may vary based on the number of affected employees and bond market conditions.

Proposition V

Shall the Charter be amended to add an Anti-Nepotism provision that would prohibit employees or contractors of the City from being related to the Mayor, Councilmembers, or City Manager within the third degree of consanguinity (blood) or second degree of affinity (marriage) unless the employee or contractor has been continuously employed by the City for at least two years?

Summary

This amendment would add an Anti-Nepotism provision to the Charter, prohibiting City employees or contractors from being closely related to the Mayor, Councilmembers, or City Manager—specifically within the third degree by blood or second degree by marriage—unless they've been continuously employed by the City for at least two years. The change promotes fairness and helps prevent conflicts of interest in hiring and contracting practices.

Proposition W

Shall the Charter be amended to add a Definitions appendix that includes definitions for Budget, Capital Improvement Program, Comprehensive Master Plan, Council-Manager Form of Government, Entire Membership of Council, Home Rule, Initiative, Instrumentality of the City, Referendum, Recall, and Term of Office?

Summary

This amendment would add a Definitions appendix to the Charter, providing clear explanations for key terms such as Budget, Capital Improvement Program, Comprehensive Master Plan, Council-Manager Form of Government, Home Rule, Initiative, Referendum, Recall, and others. The goal is to improve clarity, consistency, and public understanding of Charter language.

Proposition X

Shall the Charter be amended to remove or adjust language that applies only to the original charter which was approved in 2003 without removing historical context but to ensure the provisions of the amended Charter make sense?

Summary

This amendment would revise or remove language in the Charter that only applied to its original adoption in 2003. While preserving historical context, the changes aim to ensure the Charter's provisions remain relevant, coherent, and applicable to current governance.