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CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS



CITY OF DALLAS

## Memorandum

DATE May 24, 2024

TO Tammy Palomino, City Attorney

SUBJECT **Request for State Opinion on Combining Similar City Charter Amendments into One Ballot Measure**

City Attorney Palomino,

I have been working with your office and the Office of Government Affairs on proposed City Charter amendments. Your office has informed me that each operational and policy amendment must be presented as individual ballot measures. However, there is precedent across the state showing that it is possible to combine amendments in a single ballot measure. As such, I ask that you reconsider your opinion on this matter. If possible, two specific amendments under consideration I would like to see combined are:

1. Combine my two proposed amendments to **change city council term lengths to four years and change the election date** from May to November.
  - a. Austin changed the council member term lengths and the election date in a single ballot proposition in 2012, with no objection from the State (Proposition 2).
  - b. Socorro changed term lengths and election date in a single ballot measure in 2020 (Proposition 9).
2. Combine Chamber 18, Section 11 subsections (1) & (2) – **Extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect required signatures on a petition from 60 to 120 days and reduce the number of signatures required on a petition** in support of holding a referendum - as one ballot measure.
  - a. In 2014, Proposition 6 amended Dallas' City Charter on multiple aspects of a single section in one ballot measure.

I request that the City Attorney confer with either the Attorney General or the Texas Municipal League on the ability to treat similar charter amendments as one subject to qualify as one ballot measure, per the two examples above.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad West'.

Chad West  
Councilmember  
District 1

cc: Honorable Mayor Johnson  
Honorable City Council  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Interim City Manager  
Carrie Rogers, Director of Government Affairs