

Ordinance No. 2025-43

SUMMARY OF CHARTER ISSUES TO BE SUMMITTED FOR VOTE

ISSUE 1: Preamble.

Preamble.

This preamble proposes and reinforces the City's desire to secure the benefits of local self-government under the Ohio Constitution. The preamble reinforces the City's position as an inclusive community which provides equal protection of the laws for all citizens and where no one is denied the enjoyment of civil, economic, or political rights and provides adherence to non-discriminatory practices as defined by state and national laws. However, it further proposes and establishes that the citizens of the City of Steubenville do not deem our City to be a sanctuary city, i.e. a city whose municipal laws tend to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation or prosecution despite Federal Immigration Laws and that the City of Steubenville shall not become a sanctuary city by enactment of any ordinance, resolution, motion, or decree without formal amendment of this Charter by the electors of the City of Steubenville.

ISSUE 2: COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Council and Mayor.

Article II - Section 3. B.

Proposes that Members of Council shall not have a personal or private interest in any legislation proposed or pending before Council unless they:

- 1. Annually disclose the fact in a written conflict of interest statement delivered to Council.**

Article II – Section 3. D.

Proposes to add a Division D which states that Members of Council shall review and sign a disclosure form annually in order to disclose conflicts of interest or the holding of an incompatible office.

Article II – Section 4. A. 1.

This addition clarifies that the Mayor or any Councilmember may be removed from his or her office by a majority vote of four (4) members of Council and the office would be declared vacant.

Article II – Section 4. A. 3.

Proposes that the decision of Council to remove an elected officer shall be made only upon concurrence of a majority of all Members of Council after public hearing upon the charges brought; and provided further, that the accused elective officer shall have been notified in writing, by certified mail, of the charge(s) against him or her at least fifteen (15) days in advance of such public hearing.

Article II – Section 4. B. 1.

Clarifies that in the event the office of a member of Council becomes vacant, City Council, within thirty (30) days of the vacancy occurring, shall appoint an individual from the same Ward from which the vacancy occurred.

Article II – Section 4. B. 3.

Clarifies that if a seat of Council remains unfilled as a result of a person not running and being elected to such seat, Council shall fill said seat by an individual from the same Ward from which the vacancy occurred.

Article II – Section 5. A.

Proposes that the term of Mayor shall be for a period of four (4) years and he or she shall be elected by the qualified electors of the City at large and shall serve not more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Article II – Section 5. C.

Proposes that when the mayor is absent temporarily or is inaccessible or is unable for any cause or reason to perform his or her other duties, the Councilperson-at-Large

shall serve as the Mayor. This change merely denotes a gender-neutral wording relating to the member being either male or female.

Article II – Section 5. D.

Proposes that in the event the Office of Mayor becomes vacant, the Councilperson-at-Large shall become the acting Mayor. This change merely denotes a gender-neutral wording relating to the member being either male or female.

Article II – Section 6.

Proposes that the Clerk of Council shall be required to maintain a complete copy of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Steubenville in the public libraries located in Steubenville along with keeping a copy in his or her office. The purpose of this change was to note that the Codified Ordinances shall be maintained in the multiple public libraries in the City of Steubenville.

Article II – Section 11.

Proposes that at any meeting at which a quorum is present, any action may be taken by the affirmative vote of a majority of four (4) Members of Council, unless a larger number is required by the provision of this Charter. The provision merely clarified the majority members of Council to denote the actual number that makes up a majority, which is four (4) members.

Article II – Section 12. A.

Proposes that the salary of each Member of Council be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per stated meeting as long as said Council Member is in attendance except as provided herein and that the maximum compensation for a Council member shall be Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00) per year.

Article II – Section 12. B.

Proposes that the salary of the Mayor shall be increased to Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per stated meeting as long as said Mayor is in attendance except as provided herein and the maximum compensation for the Mayor shall be increased to Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) per year.

Article II – Section 12. C.

Proposes that changes in salary and benefits shall begin Thirty (30) days after the election of approval of said changes by the electors of the City of Steubenville.

ISSUE 3: ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinances and Resolutions.

Article III – Section 3. B.

Proposes that each ordinance or resolution of a general nature shall be read on three (3) separate days provided Council may dispense of this rule by a vote of five (5) of its members. This change merely clarified that the numerical number that Council would need to dispose of the general rule referenced above will be five (5) members as opposed to the written fraction of three-fourths (3/4ths) of its members.

Article III – Section 11. A.

Proposes that all ordinances and resolutions, after their first reading, shall be required to be published, by title, on the City's website and in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Steubenville.

ISSUE 4: CITY MANAGER

City Manager.

Article IV – Section 1.

Proposes that City Council shall, by a vote of at least five (5) members, appoint a City Manager and shall determine his or her salary pursuant to a contract, in writing, the term of which shall not exceed four (4) years. The proposed change merely clarified that the majority vote was expressed in a numerical fashion (five (5) members) and also added that the salary would be pursuant to a written contract which should not exceed four (4) years.

Article IV- Section 2. B. 1.

Purposes that the City Manager must have an undergraduate Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Accounting or related fields;

OR at least one of the following:

- a. Two (2) years' experience as a Manager/Administrator or Assistant Manager/Administrator for any municipality or county.**
- b. Two (2) years' comparable experience as a Manager/Administrator or Assistant Manager/Administrator for any municipality or county.**
- c. At least five (5) years' experience as a mid-level or senior level manager of any business or government entity**

ISSUE 5: ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Departments.

Article V – Section 5. A. 1.

Proposes that the division of Fire shall be made up of personnel having qualifications of a Firefighter and EMT as provided in Section 124.42 of the Ohio Revised Code. This amendment clarifies that this provision is applicable to Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) as well as Firefighters.

Article V – Section 5. C. 1. a.

Proposes that qualifications for the position of Fire Chief shall include seven (7) (instead of (10) ten) years' experience in the position of Assistant Fire Chief or Captain/Inspector within any fire department.

Article V- Section 5. D. 1. a. – d.

Proposes that no person shall be appointed Police Chief without a Bachelor's Degree in Public Safety Administration, Criminal Justice, or related field from an accredited College or University and three (3) (instead of (5) five) years' experience as a Captain or higher within any law enforcement agency or, an Associate's Degree in Public Safety Administration, Criminal Justice, or related field from an accredited college or university and five (5) (instead of (10) ten) years' experience as a Captain or higher within law enforcement agency.

Furthermore, all sub-sections of Article V, Section 5, Sub-section D. 1. a. – d. are cumulative requirements and each applicant must meet the mandates of Sub-section D. 1. a. – d.

Article V – Section 6.

Proposes a new requirement regarding the appointments of the Administrative Department Heads specifically that the City Manager is responsible for appointing Administrative Department Heads and Division of Public Works after obtaining approval from the Executive sub-committee, which shall consist of two (2) members of City Council, the Mayor, the City Manager's designee, and the City Manager and that subsequent approval from the majority of the City Council members is also required for these appointments.

ISSUE 6: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Boards and Commissions.

Article VI – Section 3. E.

Proposes that upon submission of a duly completed zone change request application, the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing by giving at least thirty (30)-days' notice of the time and place, thereof, in a newspaper of general circulation and also the City's website.

Article VI – Section 7

Due to the fact that City Council eliminated the Board of Health in 2018, the Charter Commission recommended to strike this section of the charter which detailed the establishment, membership and the powers and duties of a board of health.

Article VI – Section 9.

Proposes that the Charter be reviewed at a minimum of every ten (10) years with the next review taking place in 2035.

ISSUE 7: FINANCE, TAXATION AND DEBT

Finance, Taxation and Debt.

Article VII - Section 2. B.

Proposes to add a notification for the advertisement and bidding of contracts to be advertised both in a newspaper of general circulation and on the City's website once a week for a period of two (2) weeks.

Article VII - Section 4. C.

Proposes to add a notification for competitive bidding for certain contracts in a newspaper of general circulation and on the City's website once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

ISSUE 8: GENERAL PROVISIONS

General Provisions.

Article X – Section 7

Purposes any and all amendments to the Charter take effect and be in full force on November 24, 2025.