



# City of Houston

## Council Committee on Ethics, Elections and Council Governance

Council Member C.O. "Brad" Bradford, At-Large Position 4

Vice Mayor Pro-Tem, Chair

Helena Brown, District A  
Jerry Davis, District B  
Ellen Cohen, District C  
Wanda Adams, District D  
Mike Sullivan, District E  
Al Hoang, District F  
Oliver Pennington, District G  
Edward Gonzalez, District H

James G. Rodriguez, District I  
Mike Laster, District J  
Larry Green, District K  
Stephen C. Costello, At-Large Position 1  
Andrew C. Burks, Jr., At-Large Position 2  
Melissa Noriega, At-Large Position 3  
Jack Christie, At-Large Position 5

### Agenda

Thursday, August 2, 2012 @ 10:00AM  
City Hall Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

1. **Call to Order and Remarks** – Council Member C.O. "Brad" Bradford, Chair
2. **Proposed City Charter Amendments** – City Attorney David Feldman
  - a. To update the Charter by repeal of provisions rendered obsolete by supervening state or federal law
  - b. To modernize citizen petition processes (initiative, referendum, recall) by recognizing changes to election law and procedure and the existence of single member council districts
  - c. To conduct all meetings of City Council and its committees in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act
3. **Public Comment**

Committee meetings are open to the public. Action may be taken on any or all of the above items. For special needs or information about this committee, please contact Wendy Richard Tilford at 832-393-3322 or [wendy.tilford@houstontx.gov](mailto:wendy.tilford@houstontx.gov).

Texas Government Code, Section 551.042. Inquiry Made at Meeting – (a) If, at a meeting of a governmental body, a member of the public or of the governmental body inquires about a subject for which notice has not been given as required by this subchapter, the notice provisions of this subchapter do not apply to: 1) a statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry; or 2) a recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry. (b) Any deliberation of or decision about the subject of the inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for subsequent meeting.

City of Houston  
Propositions for November 2012 ballot

City of Houston

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Relating to amending the Charter of the City of Houston by repealing various sections that are obsolete or have been superseded by state and/or federal law.

Shall the Charter of the City of Houston be amended by repealing the following sections:

Section 2-a of Article I of the Charter, originally adopted in 1913, relating to annexation of adjoining territory upon request of the voters without the necessity of an election, as now required by state law;

Section 2-b of Article I of the Charter, originally adopted in 1913, relating to extending the boundary limits of the City of Houston and to annexing adjacent territory by ordinance, with or without consent of the inhabitants of the territory, and without the need for an election as now required by state law;

Section 14 (originally adopted in 1905) and section 14a (originally adopted in 1913) of Article II of the Charter, which require the City to operate and fund the Houston Independent School District, and authorize the City to levy taxes for that purpose, as now superseded by state law;

The provisions of paragraph 10 of Section 16 of Article II of the Charter, originally adopted in 1905, relating to the City's authority to regulate the price of certain goods, as such prices are regulated by state and federal law;

The provisions of paragraph 15 of Section 16 of Article II of the Charter, originally adopted in 1905, requiring the City to treat disabled individuals less favorably than people who are not disabled, as now superseded by federal law;

Section 10 of Article IX of the Charter, originally adopted in 1905, exempting City officers and employees from jury duty, as state law requires that all citizens of this state—including employees of the City—are required to serve on jury duty.

[YES]

*A FAVOR*

[NO]

*EN CONTRA*

City of Houston

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Relating to amending the Charter of the City of Houston to conform initiative, referendum, and recall petition processes to current law

Shall Article V, Section 10 (adopted 1951) and Article VIIa (adopted 1913) of the Charter of the City of Houston be amended to remove obsolete references to party primaries and partisan City elections, to address the impact of current election laws and procedures, and to recognize the existence of council districts in initiative, referendum and recall petition processes?

[YES]

*A FAVOR*

[NO]

*EN CONTRA*



City of Houston

PROPOSITION NO. 3

Relating to amending the Charter of the City of Houston to require the City Council and all committees thereof to adhere to the standard for all other governmental entities in Texas and conduct their meetings in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act

Shall Section 3 of Article VII of the Charter of the City of Houston, originally adopted in 1942, be amended to require all meetings of the City Council and all committees thereof to be conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act?

[YES]

*A FAVOR*

[NO]

*EN CONTRA*