

LEGAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Registered voters in the City of Lakewood are advised that the ballot for the November 3, 2026 General Election will contain five ballot questions regarding proposed amendments to the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood. The ballot questions and proposed amendments are as follows:

BALLOT ISSUE	BALLOT QUESTIONS & PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT LANGUAGE
ISSUE #46	Ballot Question: Shall Section 2.2 of the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood be amended to require that prior to making an appointment to a vacancy in Council, remaining members of Council shall first issue an open call for all interested candidates to submit applications and, upon Council's review of the applications, shall hold candidate interviews in public session? SECTION 2.2 QUALIFICATIONS AND VACANCIES (a) <u>Qualifications.</u> Each member of council shall have been for at least one year immediately prior to the date of taking office both a resident and registered voter of the city. Each member of council elected from a ward of the city shall be a resident of the ward from which the member was elected. All members of council shall continue to be residents and registered voters of the city and, if elected or appointed from a ward, shall be and continue to be a resident of that ward. Any member who ceases to possess those qualifications shall immediately forfeit his or her office. Council shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its members. (b) <u>Vacancy.</u> Vacancies in council shall be filled by appointment made by the remaining councilmembers. <u>Prior to making any appointment, council shall first issue an open call for all interested candidates to submit applications and, upon council's review of the applications, shall hold candidate interviews in public session.</u> In the event council does not appoint a successor within 60 days of the occurrence of a vacancy, the mayor may fill the vacancy. If the vacancy occurs more than two years and <u>30</u> 120 days before the municipal primary election <u>filing deadline</u> for the next term of that office, the appointee shall serve only until his or her successor is elected and qualified at the next regular municipal election. If the vacancy occurs afterward, the appointee shall serve until the end of the unexpired term of the former councilmember. Any vacancy that results from a recall election shall be filled in the manner provided by Article Nine.
ISSUE #47	Ballot Question: Shall Section 2.8 of the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood be amended to allow the revision, repeal, or amendment of an ordinance or resolution by underlining inserted language and striking through language that is being removed? SECTION 2.8 ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (a) Each proposed ordinance or resolution shall be in writing and shall not contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly stated in the title. General appropriation ordinances may contain the various subjects and accounts for which moneys are appropriated. The vote on the passage of each ordinance or resolution shall be officially recorded and the official record shall be publicly available.

	(b) No resolution of a permanent character or ordinance shall come to a vote until it has been read, by title, on three separate days. The requirement of reading on three separate days may be dispensed with by a two-thirds vote of all councilmembers. A majority of councilmembers present may require that an ordinance be read in full rather than by title. No ordinance, resolution or section of an ordinance or resolution shall be <u>repealed</u>, revised or amended unless the new ordinance or resolution contains the entire ordinance or resolution or section to be <u>repealed</u>, revised or amended, and the ordinance, resolution or section revised or amended is repealed. <u>Revisions or amendments to an ordinance or resolution shall be clearly indicated by underlining any language inserted and by striking through any language that is removed.</u> (c) No ordinance or resolution shall under any circumstances be adopted or passed unless it has been read on three separate days, which (1) changes the amount of salary or compensation for any elected officer of the city; (2) amends any zoning ordinance; (3) grants, renews or extends a franchise or other special privilege; or (4) regulates the rate to be charged by a public utility for its services. (d) The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by council shall be "Be it ordained by the city of Lakewood." The enacting clause of all ordinances submitted by initiative shall be "Be it ordained by the people of the city of Lakewood."
ISSUE #48	Ballot Question: Shall Section 6.7 of the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood be amended to provide that on or before March 1 of each odd numbered year, the Civil Service Commission shall set forth the commission's recommendations for the salary and other compensation for the offices of mayor and members of council? SECTION 6.7 SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS On or before <u>March 1</u> July 1 of each <u>odd numbered</u> year in which a presidential general election is held, the civil service commission shall review and make a written report to council, which report shall be filed with the clerk of council and the office of the mayor, setting forth the commission's recommendations for the salary and other compensation for the offices of mayor and members of council. Council shall place that report on the next docket at a regularly scheduled council meeting. If council takes no action or fails to decline to follow the suggestions within 90 days, the recommendations shall take effect as if council had adopted them by ordinance approved by the mayor. However, no increase in salary under this section shall exceed 10 percent of the salary for the office of mayor or council, unless there has been no increase in salary for that office in the preceding 10 years.
ISSUE #49	Ballot Question: Shall the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood be amended by adding new Section 7.2 (i) to require that, commencing with the Federal decennial census of 2030, the Planning Commission shall review and make, if necessary, appropriate redivisions of the City into four wards, which shall be as nearly equal in population as possible, and composed of contiguous and compact territory, bounded by natural boundaries or street lines; and that any changes made in ward boundaries shall become effective for the next regular municipal election? SECTION 7.2(i) REDISTRICTING THE WARDS OF THE CITY <u>(1) Commencing with the Federal census decennially taken in the closest proximity to January 1, 2030, and following each subsequent Federal decennial census, within six</u>

	<u>months after the proclamation of the Ohio Secretary of State announcing the population of cities of Ohio, the Planning Commission shall review and make, if necessary, appropriate redivisions of the City into four wards which shall be as nearly equal in population as is possible. Each ward shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory, be bounded by natural boundaries or street lines, and be bounded by Lake Erie to the North and the Southern border of the City to the South. City Council shall place those divisions on the next docket at a regularly scheduled council meeting. If City Council takes no action or fails to decline to follow the suggestions within 90 days, the recommendations shall take effect as if City Council had adopted them by ordinance approved by the Mayor.</u> <u>(2) Any changes in ward boundaries shall become effective for the next regular municipal election, unless the new ward boundaries are adopted after the filing deadline for that election in which case they shall become effective for the following municipal election.</u>
ISSUE #50	Ballot Question: Shall Section 7.5 of the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood be amended to clarify that amendments to the Charter may be submitted to the registered voters of the city in three manners: upon the recommendation of a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Charter Review Commission and submission by Council to a vote of the people; by an affirmative vote of Council of at least two-thirds of councilmembers; or upon receipt of a petition signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the city? 7.5 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS (a) In January of 2024 and each 10th year thereafter, nine registered voters of the city shall be appointed as members of a charter review commission. Five members of the commission shall be appointed by council and four members shall be appointed by the mayor. Members of the commission shall not hold any other office or position of employment with the city. The commission shall review the charter and within six months after the appointment of its members may recommend to council, by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the commission, revisions and amendments to this charter. Council may submit any proposed amendments recommended by the commission to a vote of the people in the manner provided under this charter and the state Constitution. Amendments shall be in the form provided by council. (b) Amendments to this charter may be submitted to the registered voters of the city by a two-thirds vote of all councilmembers and, upon petitions signed by 10 percent of the registered voters of the city proposing an amendment, shall be submitted to the voters by council. <u>Council may, by affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of councilmembers, submit any proposed amendment to the charter to the registered voters of the city for approval; or upon receipt of a petition signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the city setting forth any proposed amendment to the charter, council shall submit such proposed amendment to the registered voters of the city for approval.</u> The submission of a proposed amendment to the registered voters shall be governed by the requirements of Article XVIII, Sections 8 and 9 of the Constitution of the state of Ohio as to the submission of the question of choosing a charter commission; and notice of the proposed amendment may be mailed to the registered voters as provided by the Constitution or notice may be given pursuant to ordinances adopted by council. If any amendment is approved by a majority of those voting on the amendment, it shall become a part of the charter of the city, except that if two or more inconsistent amendments on the same subject are submitted at the same election and each is approved, only the amendment

	receiving the largest affirmative vote shall become a part of the charter. A copy of the charter or any amendment shall be certified to the secretary of state within 30 days after its adoption by the registered voters.
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Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Maureen Bach, Clerk of Council, City of Lakewood – 216-529-6055 or council@lakewoodoh.gov.