



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Two Pages)

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

(**TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 10/3/06**) – An important City election is coming up Nov. 7. But the November ballot isn't only about who will be elected to the Temple Terrace City Council. Residents also will be asked to approve a dozen changes to the City Charter.

Sound daunting? It really isn't. All but two of the changes are simple "housekeeping" items designed to clean up the charter's language, bring it up to date and make it more consistent with state protocols.

Temple Terrace enacted its first City Charter in 1925. It has undergone several amendments over the years, including a voter-approved overhaul in 1978.

Now, it is time to update the document again, said Pat Jones-Rink, chairwoman of a five-member committee appointed in 2004 to study the charter and determine what modifications might be needed.

"The mayor and council felt there was a need to update the charter," Jones-Rink said. "There was a lot of outdated language and a lot of housekeeping items that needed to be taken care of."

Two sections of the charter required the most attention, Jones-Rink said. Amendment 3 changes how a seat is filled if there is an interim vacancy on the council, either through a death or other circumstances.

The committee has proposed that the mayor appoint a five-member citizen committee that will be given 30 days to present a slate of two candidates to the City Council for selection by a secret ballot vote. The selected candidate would serve for 180 days, or until the next scheduled election for City Council, whichever comes first. Currently, appointment is made of the first runner-up for the same office in an immediately preceding election.

Amendment 5 changes the way the mayor is elected to make it consistent with the way council member are elected – by whoever gets the most votes. Currently, the mayor must win by a majority (percentage), unlike council members.

Jones-Rink said the amendments don't substantially change the way Temple Terrace operates.

“A lot of it is merely cleaning up the charter,” she said. “Remember, the charter establishes the form of government, it doesn't change it. It doesn't enact any laws. It simply sets forth our form of government and how City officials are elected.”

Residents are encouraged to vote “Yes” on all of the amendments to improve the City Charter and bring it up to date, she said.

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