

We The People...

# Charting Elk Grove's Future



**What kind of changes would you like to see in the way the City of Elk Grove operates? What functions do you want to see remain just the way they are? Let us know as we draft the City's potential new governing Charter.**

## **What is a charter?**

A city charter is a unique document that, in many ways, acts like a constitution for the city adopting it.

## **Why is the City considering becoming a Charter City?**

Formed at the request of the City Council to explore options for election reform, the seven-member Charter Commission will assess the concept of Elk Grove becoming a charter city (Elk Grove is currently a general law city). General law cities are bound by state laws even when the area of concern is a municipal affair. Charter cities, by contrast, develop and use their guiding "charter" to specify how their city government is organized and functions, thus giving a charter city the authority over municipal affairs. This historic process involves drafting a charter for consideration by the City Council (the current draft can be viewed at [www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission](http://www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission)). If approved by the Council, the charter will be presented to voters at the November 2010 General Election.

## **How can you become involved?**

The City urges your involvement as the charter is being drafted. The Charter Commission has initiated an extensive outreach effort focusing on education, awareness, and involvement to help ensure that Elk Grove's voters are fully informed and prepared for the November 2010 election. The Commission's goal is to engage as many members of Elk Grove's voting public as possible (as well as future voters).

Please visit the Commission's Web page to access meeting agendas, and minutes, review draft charter language, and subscribe to automatic e-mail updates. This way you can keep apprised of the City Charter project as it proceeds, view upcoming involvement opportunities, and stay informed. Additionally, you can make a request online for a Charter Commissioner to speak at your community meeting or event. Public meetings will be planned throughout the charter development process.

## **What's included in a charter?**

Subjects to be addressed in Elk Grove's draft charter, just to name a few, include:

- Selection of the Mayor
- Number of council districts
- Bidding of public works projects
- Campaign finance

As the Commission drafts the charter, a number of alternatives will be discussed for each subject to provide you the opportunity to evaluate and weigh in on which option is in the City's best interest.

**It's your city and your constitution—get involved today to help shape the future of Elk Grove! Visit the Commission's Web page at [www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission](http://www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission) or contact the City Clerk's Office at (916) 478-2202 or e-mail [sblackston@elkgrovecity.org](mailto:sblackston@elkgrovecity.org).**