

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IS VITAL TO ELK GROVE'S GOVERNING PLAN

Since becoming a City in 2000, Elk Grove has operated under a one-size-fits-all set of laws established by the California Constitution and the California Legislature. In order for Elk Grove to explore crafting its own rules to govern itself, the City Council appointed a seven-member Charter Commission. After engaging the residents of Elk Grove in a thoughtful discussion of how the City could run more effectively, the Charter Commission will submit its recommendations to the City Council. Following additional public input, the City Council will draft a Charter ballot measure. Ultimately, the voters will decide whether or not Elk Grove becomes a charter city. If voters approve the Charter, only a vote of the people can change it.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT CHARTER

- Continues Council Manager form of government—Mayor's power over staff is no greater than that of Councilmembers'
- Provides that the community, not the City Council, elects the Mayor
- Sets a primary election for City Council, electing the candidate who receives 50 percent plus one. If there is no outright majority winner, the top two candidates proceed to a general election that elects the candidate with the most votes.

ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO SET COUNCIL AREA BOUNDARIES

- Creates a Council-appointed panel to develop boundaries for City Council districts
- Requires that the City Council wholly approve or disapprove the District Commission report
- Enables the District Commission to override a Council-disapproved report

GOVERNING PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

- Enables the City Council to reject public works bids and instead utilize City employees when more efficient, timely, or economical
- Enables the City Council to set aside the bid process to preserve life, health, or property
- Enables the City Council to use design-build contracts to reduce cost, expedite completion, improve quality, or develop unique design features
- Allows preferences for local business and green business

✓ WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO ELECT THE CITY COUNCIL?

By District The Elk Grove City Council member lives in the district and is voted on *only by those living in the district.*

People who like this approach believe that it will encourage more candidates to run for office as it will lower the cost of an election campaign (i.e., candidates won't have to campaign citywide).

Those with concerns about this approach believe that it creates a system where elected officials listen to those who elected them rather than considering the impact to the broader community.

From District The Elk Grove City Council member lives in the district, and is voted on *by the entire City* (current practice).

*People who like this approach believe that it allows City Councilmembers to consider what is best for the entire community. It also allows voters to elect **all** their representatives.*

Those with concerns about this approach believe specific community concerns may not be given a powerful voice. Another concern is there may be less accountability to the specific district.

IF THE MAYOR IS DIRECTLY ELECTED, HOW MANY CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS SHOULD THERE BE?

Four Council districts + Mayor Eliminates one district, increasing the size of the remaining four districts.

People who like this approach believe that it will save money as it will not increase election costs nor will it require remodeling of the Council Chambers. With an elected Mayor, each district would have two elected representatives (Mayor and City Councilmember).

Those with concerns about this approach feel they may have less access to their City Councilmember who will answer to more residents.

Six Council districts + Mayor Adds two more districts, decreasing the size of the current districts.

People who like this approach believe there is a need to add City Council members to ensure accountability and better representation as the community grows.

Those with concerns about this approach feel that government should be kept small. Some council districts in other cities are larger than our entire city. It would increase the cost by adding additional council compensation.



STATE LAW PROVIDES THAT PREVAILING WAGES BE PAID ON PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS AND PRIVATE PROJECTS WHERE THE CITY PROVIDES SUPPORT

(e.g., fee reductions or other economic incentives). The state establishes wage rates for each job type.

The general prevailing rate of wages includes employer payments of the basic hourly rate (rates for Saturday, Sunday, holidays, and overtime), health and welfare, pension, vacation, and travel. Also included are required fees for apprenticeship or other training programs, union dues, and union development.

What guidelines should Elk Grove use regarding prevailing wage?

Elk Grove should **follow the prevailing wage policies established by the state.**

People who like this approach believe the state should set the standard for how cities handle public works contracts. They believe that those who pay the bills (taxpayers) should direct the City's policies on prevailing wage rather than leaving the choice to the City Council.

Those with concerns about this approach believe the state rates are too high for Elk Grove. They also want to ensure that the City can nurture charities that undertake civic projects.

The Charter should **remain silent on prevailing wages** as a Charter should focus on the big-picture approach. After becoming a Charter City, the City Council could then develop its own policies.

Those who support a customized approach believe that flexibility is important. The City Council would have authority to waive prevailing wages based on contract size, allow charities to use volunteer labor, and establish wage rates based on the region (versus wages inflated to accommodate the entire state). If voters are unhappy with the result, they can elect other City Councilmembers.

Those with concerns about this approach feel wages should be stable and not subject to the changing views of the City Council.

CHARTER ACTIVITY (TENTATIVE)	DECEMBER	JANUARY
• Charter Commission Meeting	7 15	
• City Council Meeting	9	
• Charter Commission finalizes its report		5
• City Council considers Charter Report		13
• City Council considers placement of a Council-sponsored measure on the June 2010 ballot		27

All meetings at 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758

The schedule is subject to change. To confirm meetings, please visit www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission or call (916) 478-2202.

If the Charter advances to the June 2010 ballot, here is the estimated schedule for implementation:

June 8, 2010 ••••• Election Day. Passage requires 50 percent plus one vote of those voting on the measure.

August/September 2010 •• Should passage occur, the Charter would be filed with Secretary of State. The Charter (with the exception of matters pertaining to districts) would take effect.

2012 ••••• Elections would be held using new districts and incorporating the most current census data.



To schedule a speaker to a community group or to be added to our e-mail list for project updates, please contact: City Clerk's Office (916) 478-2202 or e-mail sblackston@elkgrovecity.org