

KEY ELK GROVE CHARTER ISSUES - TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please complete the following survey and return it by December 23. Save a stamp and conserve City Resources by completing the survey on-line at www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission. Please mark the position that best reflects your current views.

ELK GROVE CURRENTLY OPERATES USING A STANDARD SET OF LAWS FROM THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND PASSED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE. DO YOU FEEL ELK GROVE VOTERS SHOULD APPROVE THEIR OWN SET OF LAWS CALLED A CHARTER?

Yes No Undecided

IF MORE THAN TWO CANDIDATES RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL OR MAYOR, THE WINNER MAY HAVE LESS THAN A MAJORITY OF VOTES. HOW SHOULD ELECTIONS BE RUN?

- There should be just one election, and the candidate with the most votes is elected.
- If no candidate wins more than half the vote (50 percent plus one vote), the top two candidates should advance to a runoff.

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

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
- Six Council Districts + Mayor** Adds one more district, decreasing the size of the current districts

 **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?

- The Charter should **follow the prevailing wage policies established by the state**.
- 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.

Your input will be included in the Charter Commission report, which will provide the City Council with valuable insight about the community's views and the Charter Commission's recommendations. Both will be helpful to the City Council when drafting its Charter resolution to be presented to voters.

Please submit your completed survey to:

City Clerk, City of Elk Grove, 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 or fax to (916) 627-4400.

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

CHARTER ACTIVITY (TENTATIVE)	DECEMBER	JANUARY	All meetings start 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.
• 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	

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.

It is not too late to learn more about Charter and make your wishes known. There are five ways to comment:

- In person:** Check meeting dates at www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission or call (916) 478-2202
- Online:** www.elkgrovecity.org/charter-commission
- E-mail:** sblackston@elkgrovecity.org
- Mail:** City Clerk, 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758
- Fax:** (916) 627-4400