



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Vice Mayor Chappie Jones

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A BALLOT  
MEASURE TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER  
AND IMPLEMENTING ORDINANCE**

**DATE: July 27, 2020**

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Approved

Date: July 27, 2020

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Direct staff to create a Blue Ribbon Commission within 60 days according to the following:

1. Parameters for the Blue Ribbon Commission shall include:
  - a) 23 Members to be appointed by Council and Mayor subject to the following criteria:
    - i. Each Council Member is to nominate two members residing in their Council District;
    - ii. Mayor to nominate three at-large members, including the Chair of the Commission, who is to vote only when there is a tie vote;
    - iii. Vice Chair of the Commission is to be elected by the Commission once comprised.
  - b) Composition of Commission Members is to represent a cross-section of backgrounds and professions including, but not limited to: labor/union, business and development, academia, legal, and government.
  - c) Commission is to determine number of meetings, number of public hearings, and schedule of meetings.
  - d) Commission is to provide recommendations to Council for consideration by January 25, 2022.
  - e) Based on Commission's recommendations, Council is to determine further revisions of the Charter, if necessary, to be included as a ballot measure in the November 2022 statewide general election.
  - f) Commission to be facilitated by an Independent Consultant and supported by Staff members of City Attorney and Clerk's Offices.

2. Scope of Work of the Blue Ribbon Commission shall include:
  - a) Consideration of provisions consistent with the “Mayor-Council” government structure found in other cities in the United States in which the Mayor has executive authority and the Council has legislative authority.
  - b) Evaluation of transition of the election cycle for odd-numbered districts to align with the presidential election cycle and the even-numbered districts with the gubernatorial election cycle.
  - c) Consideration of additional measures and potential charter amendments as needed, that will improve accountability, representation, and inclusion at San Jose City Hall.

## **BACKGROUND**

In response to Council Member Esparza’s request for additional direction regarding the proposed Blue Ribbon Commission, I have proposed parameters for consideration based on an overview of documents, research, and composition of previous Charter Review and Blue Ribbon Commissions of the City of San Jose as available. As of the date of this memo, I look forward to receiving additional information from the City Clerk’s Office based on additional review of physical records.

As noted in my previous memo of July 26, 2020, the proposed ballot measure and charter amendments are aimed at bringing about reforms that will improve accountability and representation of our residents. It is in this spirit that I have provided the proposed parameters and scope of work for the Blue Ribbon Commission, including consideration of other potential amendments, such as transitioning the election cycle of the odd-numbered Council Districts (1,3,5,7,9) to the presidential election cycle and the even-numbered Council Districts (2,4,6,8,10) to the gubernatorial election cycle, as a continued effort to improve inclusiveness and representation of the dynamic and diverse residents of our City.