



VOTERS GUIDE

November 3, 2015 Election
*State of Texas Constitutional Amendments
City of Richardson (COR) Bond Election
City of Richardson Charter Amendments

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RICHARDSON

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When voting in person, either early or on Election Day, you may take written materials (including this *VOTERS GUIDE*) into the voting booth to assist you in casting your ballot.

What's on my ballot?

Richardson residents in Dallas County and Collin County will vote for:

- 7 Texas Constitutional amendments
- 4 City of Richardson bond propositions
- 83 City of Richardson Charter propositions

*The State of Texas Constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot are not covered in this VOTERS GUIDE. The League of Women Voters of Texas VOTERS GUIDE for the Texas Constitutional Amendment Election – Nov. 3, 2015 is available:
in English: <http://tinyurl.com/o24fjzn> in Spanish: <http://tinyurl.com/p4npjx9>

City of Richardson Bond Election..... www.cor.net/bondelection

Richardson voters will decide on four separate propositions as part of the \$115 million bond election on November 3, 2015. Specific information about each proposition is outlined on the City of Richardson (COR) website: www.COR.net/bondelection.

If passed, the measures would be supported by the current property tax rate of \$0.63516 per \$100 valuation. This means that there will be no tax increase to support financing for these bonds.

Bond Proposal Proposition 1 – Public Buildings **Total: \$67,000,000**

The components of Proposition 1 include:

Animal Shelter	\$475,000
<i>(Kennel Suite Upgrades)</i>	
Library Facility Enhancements.....	\$1,045,000
City Hall Improvements	\$1,650,000
Public Safety.....	\$53,900,000
<i>(Phase I and Phase II)</i>	
Fire Stations/Training Center Parking Lot.....	\$9,930,000
<i>(Station #3, Station #1 Remodel)</i>	

Bond Proposal Proposition 2 – Streets **Total: \$38,570,000**

The components of Proposition 1 include:

Collector Streets.....	\$16,535,000
Local Streets	\$5,255,000
Alley Projects	\$4,410,000
Traffic Projects	\$6,930,000
Flood Prevention	\$2,530,000
Special Projects/Contingency	\$2,910,000

Bond Proposal Proposition 3 – Parks **Total: \$7,230,000**

The components of Proposition 3 include:

Playgrounds.....	\$965,000
<i>(Breckinridge, Canyon Creek, Cottonwood, Crowley, Duck Creek)</i>	
Trails.....	\$1,050,000
<i>(Breckinridge, Spring Creek Nature Area)</i>	
Senior Center	\$4,895,000
Pool Buildings.....	\$320,000
<i>(Canyon Creek)</i>	

Bond Proposal Proposition 4 – Sidewalks **Total: \$2,200,000**

The components of Proposition 3 include:

Sidewalks.....	\$2,200,000
<i>(All remaining unfunded regions)</i>	

City of Richardson Charter Amendment Election..... www.cor.net/charterelection

HOME RULE – What is it?

Home rule is the right of citizens to manage their own affairs with minimum interference from the state. State laws tell home rule cities what they are prohibited from doing, rather than granting a home rule city the authority to undertake certain functions.

HOME RULE CHARTERS – What is a city charter?

In Texas home rule cities (such as Richardson), the charter serves much the same purpose that the Constitution does for the United States. It's a document that determines the kind of government the city will have and outlines how that government will function. A city charter may only be changed by a vote of the people.

When a city charter provision conflicts with a state law, the state law takes precedence; however, city charters may be more restrictive than state law.

STATE LAW – Why have a city charter at all?

Many of the propositions on the ballot this November delete specific requirements and limitations from the charter and replace them with language to the effect that “the city will conduct business in accordance with the Texas Constitution and laws.” While it is true that the Texas Legislature has written many statutes over recent decades detailing how municipalities must conduct city business, some would argue that it is still the role of the city charter to restrict city government further where appropriate.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS – How can a city charter be changed?

City charter amendment elections in Texas happen in one of two ways: either (1) as a result of a petition signed by a specified number of eligible voters (defined by state law), or (2) as a result of the city council's decision to hold an amendment election. This election was called by the Richardson City Council, based on recommendations from the Charter Review Commission which was appointed to advise the city council.

The city council charged the commission as follows:

- to review the Charter for purposes of recommending amendments as necessary to cause the Charter to conform to federal and state law where conflict or inconsistencies exist;
- to review the Charter for purposes of recommending

amendments as necessary to clarify and condense existing Charter sections to improve the effective application of the Charter; and

- to review the Charter for any other provisions of the Charter as the Charter Review Commission determines necessary.

This type of charter review commission is not the same as a charter commission elected by voters as required by state law to create a brand-new city charter. Rather, this commission was created by the city council under Section 22.03 of the current charter to recommend possible amendments. The city council was under no obligation to accept the commission's recommendations.

RICHARDSON CITY CHARTER – Why are there so many propositions on the ballot?

Upon receiving the Charter Review Commission's report, the city council decided to put all recommended amendments on the ballot. This resulted in 83 separate propositions on the ballot, because state law requires that “an amendment may not contain more than one subject.” [Local Government Code Section 9.004(d)].

The entire current charter may be found on the City of Richardson website at <http://tinyurl.com/p33m6om>. A redlined version of the charter showing all proposed changes is at <http://tinyurl.com/o5o7et2>.

VOTERS GUIDE – What was the process?

The League of Women Voters of Richardson (LWV-R) members who prepared this Voters Guide looked at each of the 83 ballot propositions on the city charter. The League looked for two things:

- What will change if this proposition passes?
- How much impact will this change have on city government if this proposition passes?

This document was prepared by members of the League of Women Voters of Richardson. All participants are community volunteers. Our goal is to provide voters with information to help them vote responsibly.

While we have endeavored to be accurate, there is some chance that we have misinterpreted the current charter, the proposed amendments, state statutes, and/or arguments for and against the propositions. This document should not be relied upon as a legal opinion, especially if it conflicts with explanations prepared by the city's attorney.

Key to the chart of proposed Charter amendments

The 83 propositions are listed below in the order they will appear on the November 3rd ballot. For each proposition,

- Column 1 contains the proposition number and a star rating assigned by LWV-R:
 - ★★★ Three stars indicates that, in the opinion of LWV-R, passage may have a major impact on city government.
 - ★★ Two stars indicates that, in the opinion of LWV-R, passage may have some impact on city government.
 - ★ One star indicates that, in the opinion of LWV-R, passage will likely have little impact on city government.
- Column 2 summarizes existing charter language that is proposed to change.
- Column 3 summarizes the changes that will take effect if the proposition passes.

Some of the propositions are followed by bulleted comments regarding the change in the proposition.

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
1 ★★	Section 3.01(a) confers all powers on a City Council composed of 6 members and a mayor.	<p>Clarification that the city council consists of 7 members (mayor plus 6 council members). Definitions are added for use in the rest of the charter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “city council”, “council”, “member(s) of the city council” and “member(s) of the council” all include the mayor AND the 6 council members. • “councilmember(s)” and “council member(s)” refer to only the 6 council members (NOT the mayor) unless context clearly indicates otherwise 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This change would provide consistent terminology throughout the charter. • If this proposition doesn’t pass, the meaning of some charter provisions may be affected by inconsistent terminology. 			
2 ★	Section 3.02 states the mayor serves a 2-year term.	Removes language referring to the 2-year term of mayor, as it is also appears in Section 3.01(a).	
3 ★★★	<p>Section 3.07 allows for a vacancy in the city council (mayor or council member) to be filled by a majority vote of council for the remainder of the term if there are 1 or 2 vacancies. If there are 3 or more vacancies, a special election shall be called to fill the unexpired terms unless it is less than 60 days to the next election. If multiple vacancies occur within 60 days of an election, the city council shall fill all vacancies.</p> <p>Section 3.03 provides that, in the event of a vacancy in the mayor’s position, the mayor pro tem shall fill the unexpired term. The mayor pro tem’s position then becomes vacant.</p>	<p>Proposition 3 deals with a vacancy in the office of mayor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vacancy in the office for mayor shall be filled by special election at the earliest date allowed, unless the date of the next general election occurs first. • In the event of a vacancy in the mayor’s position, the mayor pro tem temporarily performs the duties of mayor, but does not assume the office of mayor. • The mayor pro tem’s position does not become vacant while he or she performs the duties of mayor. <p>(See Proposition 4 below for vacancies in the 6 council seats)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents say that the electorate must vote for the mayor, whether in a general election or in the case of a vacancy in the office of mayor. • Opponents say that the electorate votes for all council members, so if the city council chooses one of its own to be mayor, the mayor is voted on by the people and a costly special election is avoided. 			
4 ★★★	Section 3.07 (See description in Proposition 3 above)	<p>Proposition 4 deals with vacancies in the 6 council seats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is only 1 vacancy in the 6 council member seats, the city council will appoint a qualified person to serve the remainder of the term. • If there are 2 or more vacancies, they will be filled by a special election at the earliest date allowed, unless the date of the next general election occurs first. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, it takes 3 or more vacancies in the 6 council positions for a special election to be called. • If this proposition passes, a vacancy in the city council could not be filled by appointment of another sitting council member, because in order for that to happen, the second council member would need to resign his or her seat, creating a second vacancy. If there were more than one vacancy, a special election would need to be called. • Passage of this proposition would ensure that a vacancy in one of the places with a residency requirement would be filled by a person who lives in the same quadrant of the city and who is not already on the council. 			

**Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments
to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot**

Key: ★★★ Most impact to the city ★★ Some impact to the city ★ Little impact to the city		
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:
5 ★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.10 allows citizens to speak at meetings of the city council and committees thereof. These meetings will be open to the public. Citizens shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at any such meeting on matters to be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City council meetings will be open to the public. The reference to “committees thereof” has been removed. Citizens may speak at city council meetings, with the exception of emergency meetings and authorized closed meetings.
<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (the Open Meetings Act) requires that, with certain exceptions, all meetings of the city council must be open to the public. “Committees thereof” is said by the city attorney to refer to committees or subcommittees made up of council members. Some members of the public have interpreted “committees thereof” to mean all boards, commissions, or committees created by the charter or by city council. The Open Meetings Act permits city councils to allow citizens to speak at meetings, but does not require the city council to allow citizens to speak. If this proposition passes, citizens will be expressly prohibited from speaking at emergency meetings or authorized closed meetings of the city council. 		
6 ★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.11 defines a quorum as 5 (of 7) council members. If a meeting does not have a quorum, council may adjourn and compel the attendance of absent members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum remains at 5. The ability to adjourn and compel the attendance of absent members is deleted because it also appears in Section 3.12.
7 ★	Section 3.12 concerns voting and rules of procedure.	All changes clarify references to “council” to include the mayor.
8 ★★★	In Section 6.01, the city council appoints a city manager to be chief administrative and executive officer of the city. The city manager may be appointed for an indefinite period of time or may be given a contract for a period not to exceed 2 years. The city manager may be removed by a majority vote of the council. Council may fix the city manager’s compensation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All reference to a contract is deleted, including the time limit of 2 years. Language is added that the city manager “shall be accountable to the council for the proper administration of the city.”
<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the proposition passes, the city council “may” appoint the city manager for an indefinite period of time, but is not prohibited from giving the city manager a contract. By deleting the limitation that a contract may not exceed 2 years, this change potentially takes away the responsibility of each city council to review the city manager’s performance at least once during their term of office. There is no requirement in the charter that the city council review the city manager’s performance at specified intervals. If a contract of more than 2 years is given, it will bind members of a future city council. 		
9 ★	Section 9.04 states that meetings of boards and commissions shall be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law, and that minutes shall be kept, including attendance, subject matter and voting.	Changes so that the requirement that minutes be kept for meetings of boards and commissions applies only to meetings open to the public.
<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Section 551.103 of the Texas Government Code (the Open Meetings Act), a government body does not have to keep minutes (but must keep either a certified agenda or a recording) of each authorized closed meeting. 		
10 ★★	Section 11.02 requires the city manager to submit a budget for the next fiscal year, and lists the specific information to be included in the city manager’s budget message.	References to the city manager’s budget message, including the list of specific information to be included, are deleted and replaced with “The budget shall comply with and contain such information and itemization as may be required by state law.”
<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 102.003 of the Texas Local Government Code sets out the minimum requirements for the itemized contents of a municipal budget. The specific information required by the existing charter is more detailed than that required by state law. 		

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
11 ★	Section 11.03 states the budget and all supporting schedules must be filed with the city secretary when submitted to council and be open to public inspection.	All filing requirements are the same, but now refer to the "proposed" budget.	
12 ★★	Section 11.06 outlines the requirements for budget appropriation and tax levy. One sentence states, "Estimated expenditures for operating purposes will in no case exceed proposed revenue, plus reserved fund balance, and other financing sources".	In the quoted sentence, "reserved" fund balance is changed to "unallocated" fund balance.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The term "reserved fund balance" is not equivalent to the term "unallocated fund balance." "Reserved fund balance" refers generally to inventory or resources legally limited to being used for a particular purpose. "Unallocated fund balance" refers generally to money that has not been designated for a particular purpose. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued guidance replacing the term "reserved fund balance," but "unallocated fund balance" is not among the accepted terms to replace it. 			
13 ★★★	Section 11.07 allows council to transfer an unencumbered balance of an appropriation, but not a transfer of revenues or earnings of any nontax supported public utility for any other purpose.	The following language is added: "This prohibition does not apply to the transfer of budgeted funds of any nontax supported public utility or other enterprise fund for the purposes of reimbursing the general fund for providing administrative services to such operations."	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proponents say that the city provides administrative services out of general tax revenues for some nontax supported public utilities or other enterprise funds, and that the city should be reimbursed for those services by transfer of funds. Opponents say that the prohibition on transferring of revenues or earnings of any nontax supported public utility in the existing charter "for any other purpose" means that these revenues, whether "unencumbered" or not, may not be spent on anything other than that utility. This money should not be transferred to the general fund to be spent on other items. 			
14 ★★	Section 11.11 requires the city council to provide for an independent annual audit of all city accounts and other financial transactions of the city, with a provision allowing more frequent audits if necessary. The section also outlines specific requirements concerning hiring a CPA and submitting the audit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language previously required that an audit be made of "all city accounts and other evidences of the financial transactions of the city." Language now would require an audit to be made of "accounts of the city in accordance with applicable auditing standards". 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal auditors generally review a sampling of appropriate accounts rather than reviewing all accounts. 			
15 ★	Section 13.02 defines when acts of the city council must be by ordinance (in addition to those acts required by law): Adopt or amend administrative code; alter or abolish a city department, office, or agency; provide for a fine; levy taxes (except as provided in Article 11); grant, renew, or extend a franchise; authorize borrowing money; convey or lease or authorize the conveyance or lease of city lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The itemized acts of council requiring passage of an ordinance are deleted. Instead, the council must act by adopting an ordinance "when state law or other provision of this charter require such acts to be approved by ordinance". 	

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
16 ★★★	<p>Sections 19.01 and 19.02 give the city the authority to borrow money through the issuance of bonds, and outline the requirements for a bond election. Both sections refer to the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, but also contain detail on both allowable bonds and election procedures. Section 19.04 details the requirements of an ordinance authorizing bonds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections 19.01 and 19.02 are much shorter. • Bonds may be issued for any purpose not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, including “the funding of economic development programs.” • Elections shall be held in accordance with the Constitution and laws. • Section 19.04 is eliminated. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents say the proposed change gives the city flexibility to determine the appropriate type of debt instrument, credit terms, and amounts, limited to what is not prohibited by state or national law. • Opponents say the change gives the city too much power by eliminating restrictions on level of indebtedness (currently 15% of assessed value of taxable property). 			
17 ★★★	<p>Section 21.02 deals with city contracts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It states that contracts must be signed by the City Manager and attested by the city secretary. • No contract shall be entered into in excess of the amount appropriated. • Any contract for public improvements or maintenance of \$10,000 or more must be based on plans approved by city council. • After approval, competitive bids will be sought by an ad in a local newspaper at least once. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mayor, city manager, or city manager designee may sign contracts. Formerly only the city manager could sign contracts. • Signatures do not have to be attested by the city secretary. • Deletes the restriction on contracts in excess of the amount appropriated. • Deletes the requirement that the city council approve all plans over \$10,000. • Detailed requirements are eliminated, and covered by Section 21.03 (see Proposition 18 below), requiring all contracts to comply with state law. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The power to sign contracts is a power not previously granted to the mayor under the city charter. • Proponents say there are contracts that require the mayor’s signature, but under the current charter the Richardson mayor is prohibited from signing. • Opponents say the mayor’s position is primarily a ceremonial one, and that the city manager should sign contracts. • Section 252 of the Texas Local Government Code sets out detailed requirements for contract bids by cities in Texas. Other state statutes control specific types of contracts not covered by Section 252. 			
18 ★	<p>Section 21.03 details how contract bids will be handled: they will be submitted sealed, opened appropriately, remain on file with the city secretary, and be open to public inspection at least 48 hours before any work is awarded. Council will award the work to the lowest secure bid. If no bids are satisfactory, work will be done by day labor.</p>	<p>Again, detailed requirements have been eliminated, and replaced with: “The city shall comply with state law regarding... provisions relating to notice of contracts, advertisements for notice, requirements for taking sealed bids or proposals on specifications for public improvements or purchases, the manner of opening bids and the award of contracts.” (See Proposition 17 above)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 252 of the Texas Local Government Code sets out detailed requirements for contract bids by cities in Texas. Other state statutes control specific types of contracts not covered by Section 252. 			
19 ★★★	<p>Section 22.05 does not currently exist.</p>	<p>Add Section 22.05 to require the city council to appoint a commission of qualified voters from all districts of the city to review the charter at least every 10 years.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents say that the number of propositions should be much smaller in future charter amendment elections if reviews are done more frequently. More frequent reviews will be able to keep up with changes in state law. • Opponents say that even if a review is done, the city council is under no obligation to place any of the commission’s recommendations on the ballot. It costs money to review the charter, and even more if the city council decides to call a special election. 			

**Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments
to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot**

Key: ★★★ Most impact to the city ★★ Some impact to the city ★ Little impact to the city		
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:
20 ★	Section 1.02 states the bounds and limits of the City of Richardson shall be established by ordinance of the city council in accordance with state law. The city secretary maintains an official map, including recent annexations or disannexations.	“Bounds and limits” changed to “boundaries”. The city secretary will now keep an official map “as required by state law”.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 41.001 of the Texas Local Government Code requires the city secretary to keep an official map, and details how changes in that map shall be handled. 	
21 ★	Section 1.03 allows the city to annex by ordinance adjoining territory as provided by state law, with or without consent of the inhabitants of the territory to be annexed, as long as state law is not violated. Such annexations must be published one time in a local newspaper. Amendments to reduce the area do not have to be (re)published. The ordinance may not be finally acted upon until at least 30 days after publication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All language about publishing annexations in the newspaper and waiting 30 days to vote on an ordinance are deleted. Language added: “Any territory annexed shall become a part of the city, and said land and its residents and future residents shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of other residents of the city subject to state and local laws and regulations.”
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 43 of the Texas Local Government Code deals with the topic of municipal annexation in great detail, outlining authority to annex and requirements and procedures to be followed. 	
22 ★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2.03 allows the City of Richardson to acquire by condemnation either private or public property located inside or outside its boundaries for certain listed municipal purposes. The procedure of condemnation must abide by state law. Sections 18.01 and 18.02 outline the purposes for which such property may be condemned, and the mechanisms to be used. 	All three sections will be deleted and replaced with language that gives the city “the full power, authority and right to exercise the power of eminent domain in any manner allowed by the Texas Constitution and laws” for any municipal or public purposes, even though not specifically enumerated in the amended charter.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law on the power of eminent domain (the taking of private property by government or other authorized entity for public purposes) is complicated and evolving. In recent years, courts and legislatures have addressed the topic many times, changing the purposes for which property may be taken. This potentially expands the ability of the city to take private property under the power of eminent domain. Proponents of this proposition say that Texas law should determine how the city exercises its power of eminent domain. Opponents of this proposition say that the city charter should limit the purposes for which the city exercises its power of eminent domain. 	
23 ★★	Section 2.04 does not currently exist. Article 17 (sections 17.01 through 17.05) and sections 18.03 through 18.07 deal with street and sidewalk improvements and with special assessments to defray the cost of condemnation of highways.	Repeal Article 17 and sections 18.03 through 18.07 to eliminate duplication with this new section 2.04, which gives the city full authority to construct, improve, expand, widen, maintain and pay for public streets and other public improvements in any manner authorized by state law.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proponents of this proposition say that Texas law should determine how the city exercises its powers (including that of eminent domain) with regard to roads. Opponents of this proposition say that the city charter should limit the purposes for which the city exercises its powers (including that of eminent domain) with regard to roads. 	
24 ★★	Section 3.04 states that each member of city council receives \$50 per diem compensation for each regular city council meeting attended, not to exceed \$2,600 per year.	Increase the per diem compensation to \$100 per meeting, with a cap of \$5,200 per year per council member.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If this proposition passes, the compensation paid to city council members will double. The city council has not had a raise in compensation in 25 years. See the Dallas Morning News article on comparable cities’ compensation: http://tinyurl.com/q7r7e8o 	

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Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
25 ★	Section 3.08 allows the city council to designate where and when to hold council meetings, but not less than 2 regular meetings to be held per month, unless postponed for valid reasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed from not less than “2 regular meetings” to “2 meetings” per month. • Changed from “postponed for valid reasons” to “cancelled by the council”. 	
26 ★	Section 4.01 describes the physical boundaries of the 4 districts that the city is divided into.	Changed to allow the description of the boundaries to be set by ordinance “from time to time”.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4.03 of the city charter (unchanged) requires that a commission be appointed every 10 years to review the district boundaries (2 years after each US census). This would mean that districts can be changed to react to new census data as required by federal law without a charter amendment election. 		
27 ★	Section 4.06 requires a candidate wishing to run for the city council (including mayor) to circulate a petition, signed by the number of qualified voters as required by state law, and file the petition with the city secretary within the number of days set by state law. The petition will include the place to be filled by the candidate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The language on what is required is simplified to: “The petition must comply in all respects with the requirements of this charter and state law.” • The petition must designate both the office and place to be filled by the candidate. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 143.005 of the Texas Election Code details the requirements for filing a petition for city office. 		
28 ★	Section 4.07 says the city secretary will make up the official ballot by place number from names presented on the petitions, the order determined by lot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language added: names of candidates for council, listed without party designation, will be on the official ballot, unless the candidate withdrew, died, or became ineligible. • The requirement that the city secretary makes up the ballot is deleted. • The determination by lot is still supervised by the city secretary, but with the added language: “conducted in accordance with the election laws of the State of Texas.” 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the city contracts with the county elections department to conduct city council elections, as it does now, the county elections department makes up the ballots. 		
29 ★	Section 4.09 provides for a runoff election for the office of mayor or other place if no candidate receives a majority of votes in the regular election. Section 4.10 provides for a runoff in the event of a tie.	The new language consolidates the wording of sections 4.09 and 4.10 into section 4.08, without any apparent changes in content. Sections 4.09 and 4.10 are deleted.	
30 ★	Sections 5.02 outlines the procedures for filing a petition for recall of the mayor or a city council member and for holding a recall election if the member does not resign.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The petitioners’ information must include their voter registration number or date of birth in addition to name, address, signature, county of residence and date of signing; • The city secretary has 5 days or at the next regular city council meeting (whichever is later) to submit the recall petition to city council and notify the affected member; • If the member does not resign, the election will be set on “the earliest date allowed by law”, rather than within the 45-60 days currently specified. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 277.002 of the Texas Election Code requires that a petition must include a signer’s voter registration number or date of birth. • Elections may only be held on specified dates under state law. 		
31 ★	Section 5.02(b) states that a petition to recall the mayor or city council member must be signed by “at least 10% of the entire number of persons entitled to vote in the city, as appears on the county clerk’s rolls.”	Changed to “at least 10% of the total number of qualified voters on the date of the last regular municipal election of the city”.	

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
32 ★	Section 6.05 outlines the powers and duties of the city manager. Section 6.06 states that the city manager is responsible to the city council and shall appoint and employ all directors of departments and other employees not otherwise provided for in the Charter or by ordinance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6.06 will be deleted, as it is incorporated into Section 6.05. The only substantive change is that all “directors of departments shall be immediately responsible to the city manager and may be removed by the city manager at any time.” 	
33 ★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.01 states that city council appoints a city attorney and sets his or her compensation. The city attorney represents the city in all litigation and serves as legal advisor and attorney and counsel for the city. The city attorney holds office at the pleasure of the city council. Section 7.05 states that the prosecutor of the municipal court, appointed by the city council, shall be a duly licensed, practicing attorney in Texas, must reside in Richardson, and may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the entire council. Section 7.06 allows the city council to appoint an alternate prosecutor of the municipal court who is a duly licensed, practicing attorney in Texas, need not reside in Richardson, and may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the entire council. 	<p>The substantive changes in Section 7.01 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the city attorney may serve as municipal court prosecutor or may provide (rather than the city council appointing) a prosecutor and alternate; the city council may contract with one attorney or with a firm of attorneys who may designate one member of the firm to serve as city attorney. <p>Sections 7.05 & 7.06 are deleted, meaning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the residency requirement for the prosecutor of the municipal court is deleted; the removal of the municipal prosecutor and alternate municipal prosecutor by a 2/3 vote of council is also deleted. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed change potentially cedes authority (for determining which individuals will serve as city attorney, municipal court prosecutor, and alternate municipal court prosecutor) that was formerly vested in the city council to a law firm. Proponents say that the city would benefit from the added flexibility of being able to hire a law firm, which would then provide individuals to fulfill the various required roles. The city council would retain the right to terminate the arrangement. Opponents say that a law firm retained by the city could designate anyone to serve as city attorney, municipal court prosecutor, and alternate municipal court prosecutor. There is no requirement that anyone be a resident of or in any way involved with the city. 			
34 ★	<p>Section 9.07 states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan commission shall consist of 7 members and 2 alternates who shall be qualified voters, residents of Texas for 1 year, and residents of Richardson for 6 months. half the members and half the alternates shall be elected in alternate years. the duties of the plan commission with reference to planning and zoning are detailed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement that members and alternates be qualified voters is deleted because the requirements are found in Section 9.02. The requirements concerning length of residency are deleted because the requirements are found in Section 9.02. The requirement for alternate year appointment of half the members is deleted. The listing of the plan commission’s duties is condensed and reworded. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 211 of the Texas Local Government Code lays out the requirements for Texas cities with regard to zoning, including the duties of the city’s (planning and) zoning commission. 			
35 ★	Section 9.08 states that the city parks and recreation commission shall consist of 9 members, 5 appointed to begin Dec 1 in odd-numbered years; 4 appointed to begin Dec 1 in even-numbered years.	Eliminates the requirement for alternate-year appointment of half the commission.	
36 ★	Section 9.09 states that the library board shall consist of 7 members, 4 appointed to begin Jan 1 in even-numbered years; 3 appointed to begin Jan 1 in odd-numbered years.	Eliminates the requirement for alternate-year appointment of half the board.	

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
37 ★	<p>Section 9.10 states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The zoning board of adjustment (which may grant exceptions to the city’s zoning ordinance) shall consist of 5 members and 2 alternates, 3 members & 1 alternate appointed to begin Apr 1 in even-numbered years; 2 members & 1 alternate appointed to begin Apr 1 in odd-numbered years. At least 4 of 5 members must hear matters and must vote in favor of reversing the determination of an administrative official. All meetings are open to the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of members changed to be “at least” 5 regular members and 2 alternates. Eliminates the requirement for alternate-year appointment of half the board. At least 75% of members must hear matters and must vote in favor of reversing the determination of an administrative official. The requirement that all meetings are open to the public is removed, as the requirement is already covered by Section 9.04. 	
38 ★	<p>Sections 9.11 (a), (b), & (c) states the powers of the civil service board. The board consists of 5 members who reside in Richardson, serving 2-year terms and until their successors have been appointed & qualified. 3 members appointed in Aug of odd-numbered years; 2 appointed in Aug of even-numbered years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete the requirement that members must reside in Richardson, as the requirement is already in Section 9.02. Delete the requirement that members serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Eliminates the requirement for alternate-year appointment of half the board. 	
39 ★	<p>Section 9.11 (d) states that the civil service board meets monthly.</p>	<p>The board can meet as needed, and not be restricted to monthly meetings.</p>	
40 ★	<p>Sections 9.12 (a) & (c) state that membership of the civil service appeals board consists of the civil service board or any 3 of its members.</p>	<p>The board shall be composed of at least 3 members of the civil service board.</p>	
41 ★★	<p>Section 11.08 states, “When recommended by the city manager and at the discretion of council, the budget may contain a reasonable sum set aside as an unreserved fund balance to meet unexpected and unforeseen contingencies in current operating costs of any fund budget service type or project.”</p>	<p>The term “unreserved fund balance” is changed to “unallocated fund balance,” and its purpose is to meet the same types of contingencies “in current operating costs of each fund.”</p>	
	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proponents favor the concept of having unallocated funds identified as such, promoting transparency. Opponents are troubled by the fact that every dollar does not have a formally assigned purpose. The term “unreserved fund balance” is not equivalent to the term “unallocated fund balance.” “Unreserved fund balance” refers generally to resources that can be used for any purpose of the fund they are reported in. “Unallocated fund balance” refers generally to money that has not been designated for a particular purpose. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued guidance replacing the term “unreserved fund balance,” but “unallocated fund balance” is not among the accepted terms to replace it. 		
42 ★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first line of Section 11.09 reads: “In case of grave public necessity, emergency expenditures to meet unusual and unforeseen conditions, which could not, by reasonable diligent thought and attention, have been included in the original budget, may from time to time be authorized by the council as amendments to the original budget.” Costs must be covered from reductions in other expenditures or supplemental revenues or an amount from the unreserved fund balance. Amendments will be by ordinance and shall become an attachment to the original budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grounds for an emergency change to the budget are covered by Texas statute, the wording of which is similar to the existing charter. Funds to cover expenditures come from “unallocated” (rather than “unreserved”) funds Amendments will be ratified by ordinance at the end of the fiscal year. Amendments no longer become attachments to the original budget. 	
	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The change in terminology is consistent with the change noted in Proposition 41 above. 		

**Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments
to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot**

Key: ★★★ Most impact to the city ★★ Some impact to the city ★ Little impact to the city		
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:
43 ★★★	<p>Sections 14.01, 14.02, 14.03, 14.04, 14.05, 14.06, & 14.08</p> <p>These sections deal with Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative is the process by which a group of citizens may file a petition requesting that the city council adopt an ordinance or put it to a vote of the people. 	<p>Changes to these sections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full text of a proposed ordinance must be included in the petition. All pages comprising the petition must be compiled and filed on the same day. An initiative ordinance “adopted by city council” or approved by voters may only be amended or repealed by a vote of the people. A provision for specific types of emergency ordinances to go into effect without a 30-day waiting period is deleted.
44 ★★★	<p>Section 14.09 deals with Referendum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referendum is the process by which a group of citizens may file a petition requesting that an ordinance passed by the city council be put on the ballot for a vote of the people to either approve or disapprove. 	<p>Changes to this section include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of days following passage of an ordinance for filing a referendum petition is increased from 30 to 45. Certain types of ordinances are excluded from the referendum process: “ordinances levying taxes, appropriating money, authorizing the issuance of bonds, zoning and any ordinance not the proper subject of referendum by the state constitution or state law.”
	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the topics listed as excluded from the referendum process are not permitted to be subject to referendum under Texas statutes and court decisions. Many city charters in Texas have similar exclusions from the referendum process. The only governmental entities in Texas that may authorize the powers of initiative and referendum are home rule cities (such as Richardson), and then only if the city’s charter provides for it. If proposition 43 passes, Sections 14.01 and 14.02 concerning the filing of petitions no longer apply to referendum. Requirements for referendum petitions now reside in Section 14.09. If proposition 43 passes and proposition 44 does not, then all detail concerning requirements for referendum petitions are lost. 	
45 ★	<p>Section 16.05 states that, in addition to being able to assess and collect taxes, Richardson has all power conferred upon cities with a population greater than 5,000 by the general laws of the State of Texas.</p>	<p>This section is deleted because it is redundant with Article 2 of the charter.</p>
46 ★	<p>Section 20.02 states that the City of Richardson shall never be liable for any personal injury or damage to personal or real property unless a notice is filed in writing with the city manager or city secretary within 6 months.</p>	<p>Deletes the language that the City of Richardson shall not be liable due to a defect in public streets, grounds, or public works unless the city manager knew about the defect at least 24 hours prior to the occurrence.</p> <p>Adds the language that the City of Richardson does not waive any “rights, privileges, defenses, or immunities which are provided under the common law, the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.”</p>
	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental liability in Texas is governed by Section 101 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. 	
47 ★	<p>Section 20.05 states that contractors or subcontractors engaged in public works in Richardson must notify the city of claims they have against the city. The city must then retain an amount from funds to cover the claims.</p>	<p>This section will be deleted.</p>
	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice of claim is covered by Section 20.02 and by state law governing public works contracts. 	

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
48 ★★	Section 3.09 states that special meetings of the city council will be called by the city secretary upon written request of the mayor, city manager, or 3 council members. Notice shall state the subject to be considered at the special meeting and no other subject shall be considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either the city secretary “or the city manager” may call a meeting upon written request of the mayor, city manager, or 3 council members. The phrase “no other subject shall be considered” is deleted because it is covered by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Open Meetings Act). 	
49 ★	Section 3.14 states that the mayor, city secretary, city judge, city attorney, or member of city council may administer oaths in any matter pertaining to municipal affairs.	Change from “city judge” to “municipal judge”.	
50 ★	Section 4.04 states that each member of city council must, on the date of his or her election, be a registered voter, a resident of Richardson for 1 year, be 21 years old, and not be in arrears in payment of taxes of other liabilities due the city.	<p>Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from “registered” voter to “qualified” voter. be at least 21 years old. drop the requirement that the person not be in arrears. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texas Election code Section 11.002 QUALIFIED VOTER. (a) In this code, “qualified voter” means a person who is registered to vote, 18 years old, a US citizen who resides in Texas, mentally capable, and not finally convicted of a felony (or has fully discharged their sentence). The arrears provision has been held invalid by Federal courts. 		
51 ★	Section 4.05 states that the city council general election must be held in the second quarter of every odd-numbered year on a date prescribed by state law. The mayor and 6 council members will be elected at that time.	The date is changed to “the uniform election date in May or other date as may be prescribed by state law”. Elections remain in every odd-numbered year.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election dates are specified by state law. 		
52 ★★★	Section 5.04 doesn’t currently exist. The current charter does not place a limit on when a recall petition may be filed.	<p>No petition to recall the mayor or any council member shall be filed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> within 6 months of such person’s election or appointment to council, within 3 months after an election to recall the same person, or within 3 months before the expiration of that person’s current term in office. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These proposed limits on recall petitions are new and are not required by state law. According to a study conducted by the Texas Municipal League in 2008, 55% of Texas home rule city charters allowed elected mayors and council members a few months on the job before being subject to a possible recall election. The same study found that 26% of charters provide that after having been the subject of a recall election, a council member may not be subjected to another recall election within a certain period of time. The same study found that to save election costs, 12% of charters provide that recall petitions will not be honored within a specified period before the person in question will come up for re-election. 		
53 ★	Section 6.02 states that the city manager must be a resident of Richardson during the tenure of holding the office.	“The city manager ... shall be a resident within six (6) months after appointment.”	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This proposition would allow a newly-hired city manager time to find a place to live in the city. 		
54 ★	Section 7.09 incorporates any changes in state law as to the jurisdiction of municipal courts.	This section is deleted because any changes in state law as to jurisdiction are automatically incorporated.	

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
55 ★	Section 9.01, under Boards & Commissions, states that no person may serve more than 4 consecutive 2-year terms. This does not apply to alternate members of boards & commissions.	Changes to: no person may serve more than 4 consecutive 2-year terms "on any single board or commission". This still doesn't apply to alternates.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This means that a person who has served 4 consecutive terms on a single board or commission is not prohibited from later or concurrently serving on another board or commission. It also means that a person who has served 4 consecutive terms may be appointed to the same board or commission at a later date, as long as the additional term or terms are not consecutive with the previous terms. 		
56 ★	Section 9.02 states persons appointed to boards and commissions must be a resident of Richardson for at least 6 months.	The 6-month requirement to live in Richardson must be immediately prior to the date of appointment.	
57 ★	Section 9.03 states that a majority vote of council may remove a member of any board or commission without notice.	The city council has the power to remove a member "except as otherwise provided by state law or ordinance".	
58 ★	Section 9.05 states that a majority of board or commission members constitutes a quorum.	This stays intact with the addition: "Except as otherwise provided by state law or ordinance"	
59 ★	Section 9.06 states that no member of a board or commission may be excused from voting except when the vote is about the member's own conduct or financial interests, unless otherwise required by law.	"No member ... shall be excused from voting unless otherwise required by law." The specific exceptions are deleted.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 171 of the Texas Local Government Code regulates conflicts of interest for members of certain boards and commissions. 		
60 ★	Section 9.11 (d) states that the civil service board shall make an annual report to council at the end of each fiscal year, giving a summary of all expenses and making recommendations to improve the efficiency of civil service.	The requirement of making an annual report is deleted.	
61 ★	Section 9.12 (g) states that the civil service appeals board will not discriminate for or against applicants or employees based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or political opinions.	Added to the list would be age and disabilities, in order to conform with state and federal law.	
62 ★	Section 10.03 states that the civil service board must certify to the city manager when civil service positions are filled.	This requirement would be removed.	
63 ★	Section 10.03 states that positions in the classified service will be filled from the eligible lists upon requisition of the city manager.	Either the city manager "or designee" may requisition people from the eligibility list to fill vacancies.	
64 ★	Section 10.06 states that if a disciplined employee demands, it is the duty of the officer discharging the employee to furnish a written statement of the reasons.	The "officer" is defined as "city manager or department head".	
65 ★	Section 11.10 states that a copy of the adopted budget will be filed with the city secretary and the Richardson Public Library. It shall be printed, mimeographed, or otherwise reproduced and sufficient copies made available for use in all offices & agencies and for use of interested persons and civic organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to being filed with the city secretary and library, the adopted budget will be filed in "such other places as may be required by state law". The requirement to mimeograph the adopted budget will be dropped, but the rest of the section remains the same. 	

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
66 ★	Section 12.02 deals with restrictions on exclusive franchises.	The section is deleted other than: "No franchise to construct, maintain or operate a public or private utility, or a renewal or extension thereof, shall be exclusive."	
67 ★★★	Section 12.03 states that the City of Richardson by ordinance may grant any franchise, but not until after readings at 3 regular City Council meetings. The first and third meetings must be at least 30 days apart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed to give the City of Richardson the full power to grant renew, amend and extend a franchise for public or private utilities except as otherwise provided by state or federal law. • Deletes the requirement for 3 readings of the ordinance. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no state law requiring multiple readings of an ordinance granting a franchise by the City. • According to the city attorney: If this proposition passes, the City Council could adopt an ordinance granting a franchise at a single meeting. The custom and practice of the City is to have the item on a work session prior to taking action. 		
68 ★	Section 12.07 states that franchises owe the city 2% or more of gross receipts for service rendered in the City of Richardson.	Adds the language: "or such other sums as may be allowed by applicable law."	
69 ★	Section 12.08 states that the city council may <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine, fix and regulate a franchise's charges, fares or rates, • prescribe the kind of service to be furnished, and the manner in which services shall be rendered. 	Language is added: "as allowed by state and federal law."	
70 ★	Section 12.12 states the powers the City of Richardson has over railway and transit operations.	Language is added stating that the city has these powers, "except as otherwise provided by state or federal law".	
71 ★	Section 12.14 states that a property owner must pay \$5 annually to the city if the property owner has property abutting a public street or other public property and has been granted use of abutting public right-of-way.	This section is deleted.	
72 ★	Section 12.15 states that the City of Richardson requires that any corporation or transit system holding a franchise from the city must share use of its tracks, poles and wire upon payment of a reasonable rent .	Language is added "except as otherwise provided by state or federal law".	
73 ★	Section 12.16 states that permits for temporary privileges in the streets, public ways, and public places may be granted and revoked by ordinance.	Adds that licenses (as well as permits) may be granted or revoked. Adds that resolutions (as well as ordinances) may grant or revoke.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, a license is required for activity that is potentially hazardous or involves a specialized skill for which training is required. • Generally, a resolution is less formal than an ordinance, and refers to a city's position or policy, rather than regulating persons or property. 		
74 ★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 13.03 states that every ordinance imposing any penalty for a violation of its provisions must be published at least once in a local newspaper. • A descriptive caption or title summarizing the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty may be published instead of the entire ordinance. • If the city council directs doing so when passing the ordinance, the caption or title will be published once in a newspaper of the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former city charter Article 15 is now incorporated into this section. • All measures of the city council will be authenticated and recorded as established by this charter or by state law or as provided by city ordinance. • Instead of publishing the full text, a caption, or title, only a caption will now be required. • Publishing may be done once in a local newspaper or "by such other means as may be allowed by state law". 	

Proposed City of Richardson Charter Amendments to appear on November 3, 2015, ballot			
Key:	★★★ Most impact to the city	★★ Some impact to the city	★ Little impact to the city
Prop #	Under the current charter:	If the proposition passes:	
75 ★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 13.07 states that every ordinance passed by city council must be enrolled by the city secretary within 5 days after passage, or as soon as practicable. The city secretary must compare the enrolled ordinance with the original and all amendments. Errors must be corrected. Once correct, the city secretary must endorse the words "Correctly Enrolled" in the margin, give the date and subscribe the city secretary's name. 	Everything is deleted except that an ordinance passed by city council shall be enrolled by the city secretary within 5 days after passage, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.	
76 ★★	Section 14.07 states that whenever any ordinance or proposition is required to be submitted to the voters of the city, the city secretary must cause the ordinance or proposition to be printed at least 45 days before the election in a local newspaper and any other official publication of the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 14.07, which previously applied to both initiative and referendum, now applies only to initiative. The length of time before the election that the city secretary must publish an ordinance proposed by an initiative petition changes from 45 days to 30 days. Instead of having to publish in a local newspaper AND other official publication of the city, the requirement becomes publishing in a local newspaper OR other official publication of the city, or by such other means as may be allowed by state law. 	
77 ★	Article 15 states that all measures of council must be authenticated, recorded, and published or not published as required by the Charter or by ordinance.	This section would be deleted. The content is duplicated in Section 13.03. (See Proposition 74 above)	
78 ★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 16.03 states that taxes are due and payable October 1 of the year assessed and must be payable in cash. Council may pass an ordinance allowing split payment of taxes in 2 or more equal installments. Taxes not paid by February 1 of the year following assessment are delinquent, unless council provided for split payments. For split payments, taxes are due and payable as provided in the ordinance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wording changes to "Except as otherwise provided by state law, taxes are due on receipt of the tax bill and are delinquent if not paid before February 1 of the year following the year in which imposed." All language about the requirement that taxes must be paid in cash and allowing split payments is removed. 	
79 ★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 20.01 states that no property of any kind, church, school or otherwise, shall be exempt from any special taxes and assessments authorized by the charter. Section 20.03 states property belonging to the city shall not be subject to execution, garnishment, or assignment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is added to Section 20.01 that special taxes and assessments can be authorized by charter "or state law; except as provided by state law". Section 20.03 has the wording "said city" changed to "the city". 	
80 ★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 20.03 deals with execution, garnishment, or assignment. Section 20.04 states that no lien can exist on the public halls, parks or public works of the City of Richardson. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 20.03 has the addition: "except as provided by state or federal law". Section 20.04 is changed to say that no lien can exist on the property, real and personal, of the City of Richardson. 	
81 ★	Section 21.04 states the City of Richardson may acquire land for use as parks, "parkways, or pleasure grounds".	"Parkways or pleasure grounds" terminology is changed to "open space or other recreational activities".	
82 ★	Section 22.06 does not currently exist in the charter.	The city council may pass an ordinance to renumber the articles, sections, subsections, and subparagraphs of this charter.	
83 ★	Does not refer to any specific article or section in the charter.	This allows the city to make consistent corrections to capitalization and spelling throughout the charter.	

EARLY VOTING - ballot by mail..... Application must be received by October 23, 2015

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are a registered voter who meets any of the following qualifications:

- 65 years of age or older
- Out of the county during the entire election including early voting (*must provide out of county address*)
- Disabled
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote

Go to the Texas Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/pol-sub/5-15f.pdf to print an application for a ballot by mail.

EARLY VOTING - in person October 19-30, 2015

		Dallas County	Collin County
Monday through Friday	October 19-23	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm
Saturday	October 24	8am – 5pm	7am – 7pm
Sunday	October 25	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 6pm
Monday through Wednesday	October 26-28	8am – 5pm	7am – 7pm
Thursday and Friday	October 29-30	7am – 7pm	7am – 7pm



Dallas County

During early voting, registered voters in the City of Richardson, **Dallas County**, may vote at any early voting location within Dallas County. The only early voting location within the City of Richardson, Dallas County, is:

Richardson Civic Center

For a complete listing of early voting locations in Dallas County, go to

www.dallascountyvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/EVLocations.pdf

Collin County

During early voting, registered voters in the City of Richardson, **Collin County**, may vote at any early voting location within Collin County. The Collin County early voting locations closest to Richardson are:

Methodist Richardson Medical Center (Bush & Renner)

Renner-Frankford Library

For a complete listing of early voting locations in Collin County, go to

www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/Pages/early_voting.aspx



ELECTION DAY VOTING November 3, 2015, 7am-7pm

Dallas County

On Election Day, registered voters in the City of Richardson, **Dallas County**, must vote in their designated precinct polling place. Find your precinct number on your Voter Registration Card or visit www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-lookup.

For a complete list of Dallas County election day polling places, go to

www.dallascountyvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/DayLocations.pdf

Collin County

On Election Day, registered voters in the City of Richardson, **Collin County**, may vote in any voting center in Collin County.

For a complete list of election day voting locations in Collin County, go to

www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/Pages/election_day.aspx