

Election — November 3, 2009

City of Louisville



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CITY OF LOUISVILLE BALLOT QUESTION 2A

“PUBLIC BODY” CLARIFICATION

Shall section 1-1(z) of the City of Louisville Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the definition of “public body” shall include the city council for the purposes of article 4 and sections 5-5 and 5-18 of the charter, in order to clarify that the city council is subject to the rules set forth in such article and sections regarding study sessions, public records and the conduct of meetings?

CITY OF LOUISVILLE BALLOT QUESTION 2B

CITY COUNCIL E-MAIL NOTICES

Shall section 4-2(c) of the City of Louisville Home Rule Charter, concerning the requirement that city council special meeting notices be served personally or left at the council member’s residence, be amended to alternatively allow such notices to be sent by electronic mail to the council member’s e-mail address?

CITY OF LOUISVILLE BALLOT QUESTION 2C

LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

Shall section 12-4(a) of the City of Louisville Home Rule Charter be amended to eliminate the requirement for voter approval of any lease-purchase agreement and to provide that the city may enter into a lease-purchase agreement if such agreement is approved by city council by non-emergency ordinance, which ordinance would be subject to the right of voter referendum?

Background

These proposed revisions to the Home Rule Charter have been referred to the voters by the Louisville City Council, upon recommendation of the city staff. The Charter, which voters approved in 2001, requires that all revisions must be approved by the voters.

Regarding 2A, in 2004, voters approved a citizen initiative revising requirements applicable to study sessions and meetings of public bodies.

Those in favor say

Question 2A is intended to clarify the term “public body” to include city council specifically, in addition to boards and commissions, in Charter sections related to study session rules, meeting locations, review of documents and agenda-related material, and meeting notices and agendas. In practice, the city council already considers itself to be a “public body” and has been adhering to the rules in these areas.

Question 2B, which would allow Special Meeting notices to be delivered to city council members by e-mail, would revise the Charter requirement that the notice be served personally or left at the council member’s residence. Staff has been hand-delivering to each council member a one-page memo which directs members to the City’s webpage where the Special Meeting packets are posted.

Question 2C would allow the City to enter into a lease-purchase agreement if it is approved by city council through a non-emergency ordinance, eliminating the current requirement for voter approval. The ordinance would still be subject to the right of voter referendum. The proposal would allow the City to use lease-purchase agreements for office equipment and similar items. It might also help the City purchase or install certain solar/green options which are sometimes paid through lease-purchase agreements.

Those opposed say

No organized opposition has been identified.