



Recommended Revisions to City Election Code

*Board of Supervisors of Elections
October 7, 2024*





Goal & Scope

Goal: Implement recommended revisions of the City’s Election Code. The proposed revisions were identified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections and staff during After Action Reviews of the Elections from 2021-2023.

The changes seek to provide clarity and consistency on election procedures and improve efficiencies in the administration of City Elections.

Scope of Recommended Revisions:

- Provide flexibility for hosting early voting days.
- Establish a uniform process for canvassing vote-by-mail ballots.
- Remove redundancies between the City Charter & Code while ensuring date requirements are aligned.
- Ensure language in Code reflects current election practices and is broad enough to allow flexibility to adapt to evolving election technology.



8-4, Early Voting Hours

Summary:

Modifies the minimum time requirement for early voting on Saturdays to provide flexibility to the BOSE.

Current	Proposed Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early voting Sunday-Friday: minimum of 4 hours.• Early voting on Saturday: minimum of 8 hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes the requirement to hold an 8-hour early voting day on a Saturday. Any early voting day can be held for a minimum of 4 hours.

8-6, Special Elections



Summary:

This change adjusts the number of days a runoff special election is required to be held from 75 days to 140 days to align with the City Charter.

It also provides clarification on combining run off elections with vacancy elections. Other references to special elections for vacancies are recommended for removal due to redundancy with the City Charter.

Article V, Vote-by-Mail



Summary:

Modifying the code to ensure a consistent process for vote-by-mail ballots regardless of the method of voting for the election (either an all VBM election or a standard election).

Language clean up – removing some duplicate language from Code that belongs in the Charter and ensuring the language is broad enough to provide future flexibility.



8-18, Mailings

Summary: Modifies the number of required mailings to households and registered voters to reduce cost and waste associated with the County voter roll.

Current	Proposed Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every Household-1 mailing• Every Registered Voter-3 mailings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every Household-2 mailings• Every Registered Voter-2 mailings



Next Steps

The City Attorney will draft an ordinance for Council's consideration. It is the Board's recommendation that the Council adopt these changes prior to the end of calendar year 2024 to ensure these changes will be in effect for the City's upcoming election in May of 2025.

Tentative Schedule:

November 18: First Reading of Ordinance

December 2: Second Reading/Adoption of Ordinance

Effective Date: December 22, 2024