



# Amarillo Charter Review

June 27 Citizen's Committee  
Meeting

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# Call to Order

## City Council Representatives and Committee Members

Councilmember Scherlen	Councilmember Simpson
Chair Freda Powell	Vice Chair Gary Pitner
Kim Benson	Rodney Hill
Audrey Castillo	Toby Hudson
Dean Crump	Sandra McCartt
Michael Haning	Donna Ward

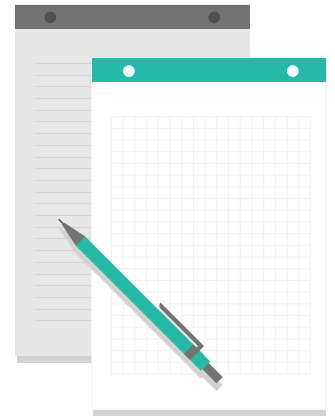
## Baker Tilly Team

Dennis Hawkins, project lead	Mary Locey
Al Zelinka	Shauna Clark



# Review and Adopt June 27 Agenda

- Public comment
- Confirm Committee consensus
- Discuss redistricting criteria
- Discuss recommendation to add Charter review as a Charter amendment or to the Governance and Ends Policy
- Discuss potential ballot language
- Priority exercise
- Committee bike rack items
- Committee comments
- Review and wrap up





## **Public Comment**



# Confirm Committee Consensus

On June 6, 13, and 20 received Committee consensus on:

- **Council offices and elections**
  - Seven members, four-year staggered terms, eight-year term limit
  - Mayor and three Councilmembers at-large (election cycle 2025, 2029, 2033)
  - Three Councilmembers required to live in a specific geographic area, seats specified pre-election (transition election cycle 2025, 2027, 2031)
  - All seats elected by citywide vote; citywide representation by all members
  - Including a resignation to run provision
  - Revises procedure to fill vacancies consistent with state law
  - Define three geographic areas with residency requirements (Places 2, 4, 6) and establishes a Districting Commission
- **Recall revisions**
  - 30% of votes for official(s), 60-days to submit petition, remove 1/5 certify
- **City Manager authority**
  - Revise to consult with Council on unclassified (executive level) employees



## **Confirm Committee Consensus**

On June 6, 13, and 20 received Committee consensus on:

- **No Charter Changes**
  - Retain elections in May of odd numbered years
  - Retain City Manager appointment of City Attorney
- **Recommendation to Council**
  - Revise Charter or include as a Governance and Ends Policy the establishment of a Charter review cycle and citizen committee to routinely review and update the Charter



## **Review and Discuss – Redistricting Criteria**

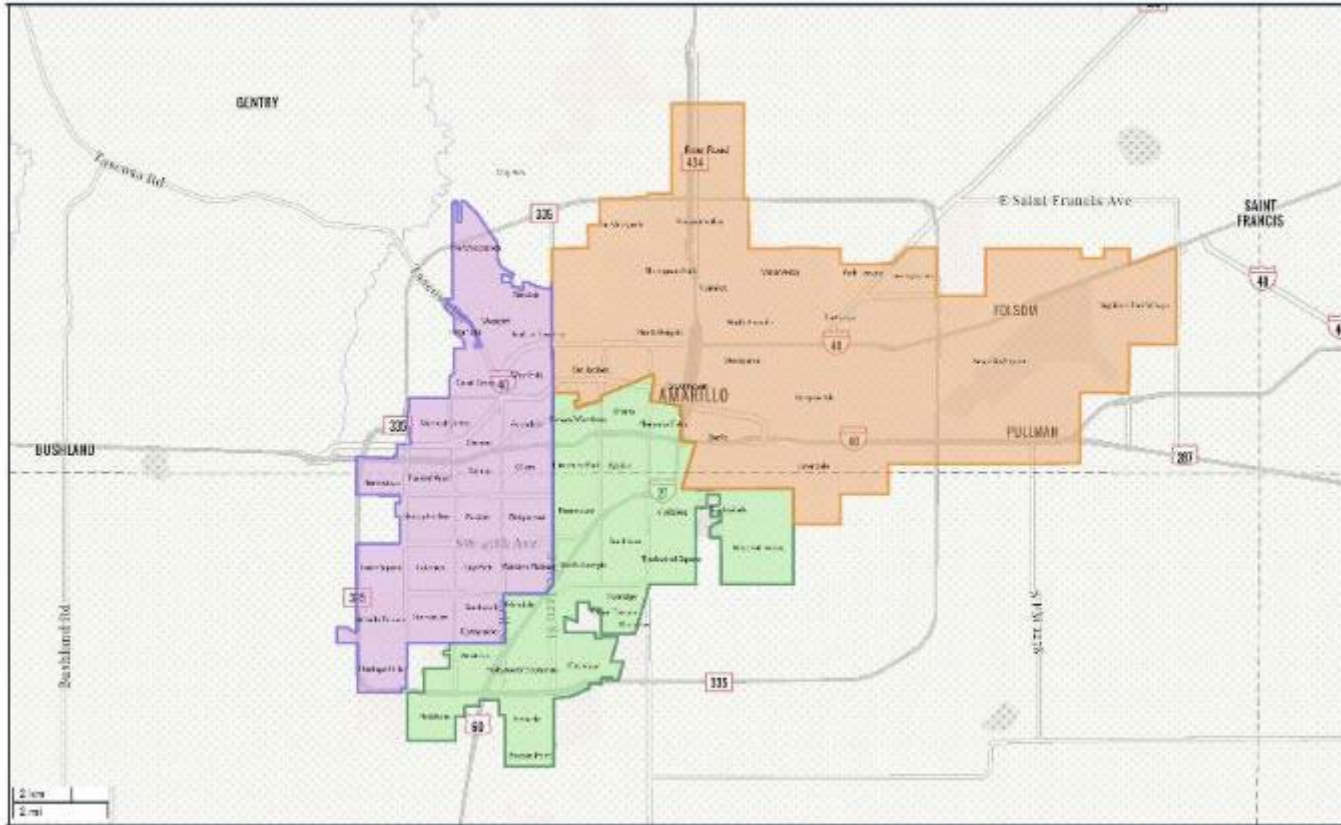
1. Geographic areas equal in population according to the 2020 federal census.
2. Follow Federal Voting Rights Act and applicable federal and state court decisions.
3. Boundaries follow natural streets, cohesive neighborhoods, and avoid gerrymandering.
4. Compact areas of contiguous territory.
5. Retain communities of interest.
6. Areas composed of whole voting precincts and avoid splitting census blocks.
7. Plan shall not fragment minority communities or otherwise discriminate protected groups.







# 1/3/3 Voting Districts Proposal D-Alternate



## Proposed Map D

**DRAFT MAP PROVIDED FOR PRELIMINARY COMMITTEE REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY. NO LEGAL ANALYSIS OR REVIEW HAS OCCURRED.**

June 20, 2024

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Page 2 of 1



## **Review and Discuss – Charter Review**

Recommend to the City Council to consider an additional Charter amendment or to include a new Charter Review Policy in the City's Governance and Ends Policies.

- Review proposed draft policy language
- Proposal:
  - To establish a Charter Review Committee every four years starting in 2026
  - To review the City's Charter and recommend changes to the City Council for ballot measures starting in 2027
  - Selection of 14 committee members:
    - Mayor and each at-large Councilmember to select two persons each who may live anywhere in the city (8)
    - Councilmembers with residency requirements to select two person each from the geographic area they represent (6)



## **Review and Discuss – Draft Ballot Language**

- Review specific charter provisions which need to be revised as a result of the Committee's recommendations.
- Discuss the structure of potential charter revision language.
- Determine next steps in developing specific ballot provisions required under the current charter and state law.
- Review proposed language for:
  - Article II, Section 24 – Recall
  - Article II, Section 25 – NEW Charter Review Commission
  - Article V, Section 1 through 6 – Mayor and City Council Offices and Elections
  - Article V, Section 21 – Powers and Duties of the City Manager



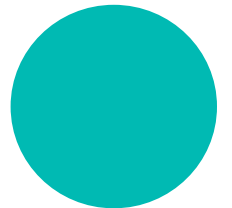
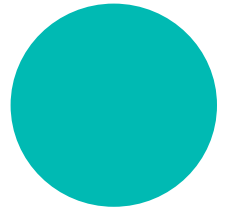
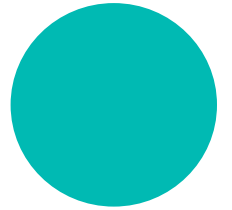
# Prioritize Charter Updates

## Dot voting exercise

- Each Committee member receives three dots
- Place one dot next to your three priority items
  - Do not double dot or half dot any item

## Review results

- Confirm consensus on priority items to forward for Council consideration



# Committee Bike Rack Items

- Update Charter to remove/replace archaic language and provisions
- Change/update Charter to be consistent with state law, particularly regarding annexation, purchasing, etc.

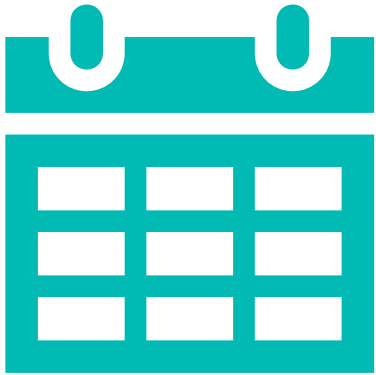




## **Committee Comments**



# Meeting and Project Schedule



- **City Council Action**

- **TBD:** Presentation of Committee recommendations
- **July 23:** First reading of ordinance
- **August 13:** Second reading of ordinance

- **Ballot Measure(s)**

- **August 19:** Deadline per Texas Election Code
- **November 5:** Election





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**Thank you**

