

HISTORY OF CHARTER REVIEW: 1931 – PRESENT

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Office of the City Clerk
January 15, 2015

Failure of the 1929 Charter

- 1929 Freeholder Perspective
 - ▣ Basic Structure
 - ▣ Harbor Commission under City Manager
 - ▣ Fire/Police Retirement Structure

- Local Newspaper
 - ▣ Powerful City Manager

1931 Charter

- New Board of Freeholders
- Build on Structure of 1929
- Major Issues Discussed
 - Type of Government
 - Role of City Manager
 - Elections
 - Structure of Commissions

CITIZENS FORM GROUP TO WELD OPINION FAVORING CHARTER ADOPTION

Jack Millan Heads Committee to Work for New Document; Departments Named; Members Sought.

Welding of public opinion behind the proposed new city charter, which will be submitted to the voters at the April 10 election, has begun yesterday with formation of a Citizens' Charter committee at a meeting held at the chamber of commerce headquarters.

The original 29 members decided that the membership should be constantly expanded, and citizens who desire to join were asked to send their

CITIZENS ORGANIZE COMMITTEE TO WORK FOR NEW CITY CHARTER

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group, including Snyder, Martin and Millan, will select an executive committee of nine to 15 members. When the citizens' committee becomes larger, it was explained, the executive committee will be able to transact most of the routine business of the campaign.

Detailed plans for the next month will be formulated at a future meeting of the committee, which will meet at the call of the chairman. Another committee, including Robert Graham, Ray Mathewson and Hal Hotchkiss, will act as a "grievance committee" to contact groups unfavorable to the charter, if any develop, and discover their exact objections. These will then be reported to Martin, as head of the speakers' committee, so that speakers will be able to deal with the objections.

NAMES HEADQUARTERS

Millan announced that a headquarters on Fourth street near Broadway would be made available through Emil Klicka. Copies of the new charter may be had at the office of the

group, and this new charter can go into effect without a great deal of confusion or disruption.

"We shall be able to get exact costs of operation for every department, and the city manager now has no autocratic powers. He is subject to the will of the people at any time."

RETIREMENTS KEPT

In a discussion of the objections stated by certain members of the police force, Martin said that no change was made in retirement provisions for either the police or fire department.

"The old charter gave firemen optional retirement, in case of disability at the end of 15 years of service," he said. "The police did not have that privilege. In this new charter the firemen still have it and the police are still without it. We simply took the old charter sections."

"I personally believe, however, that the police should have the same privilege as the firemen, and I have pledged myself to move for an amendment after the charter is in force. That is all we can do about it now. The police have lost nothing they for-

Newspaper Clippings

The passage of the 1931 Charter required compromise and public participation.

Since 1931

- 245 Chaptered Charter Amendments
- Eight Citizen Charter Review Committees
 - 105 Ballot Props
 - 79 Passed
- Twelve Citizen Initiatives to Amend the Charter
 - 3 Passed

1. Charter Revision Committee

1940-1941

- 15 Members Appointed by Mayor & Council
- Mayor Opened the 1st Meeting: February 1940
- Recommendations Presented to Council: Jan 1941
- Council Committee Reviewed Recommendations
- Committee Recommendations to Council: Feb 1941
- 21 Ballot Props - April 22, 1941 Election
- 19 Approved by Voters

2. Citizens Charter Review Committee 1952-1953

- 15 Members Appointed by Mayor & Council
- Mayor, City Attorney, City Manager Open Meeting: April 1952
- San Diego State College Professor Acts as Advisor
- Committee Presented Four Progress Reports and a Final Report (Feb 1953) – All of Which Contained Recommended Amendments to the Charter
- 24 Ballot Props - March 10, 1953 & April 21, 1953 Elections
- 18 Approved by Voters

3. Citizens Charter Review Committee 1961-1962

- 38 Members Appointed by Mayor & Council
 - ▣ Diverse Geographical Areas
 - ▣ Varying Economic and Social Interests
- 24 Ballot Propositions - September 17, 1963
Election
- 21 Approved by Voters

4. Charter Review

1968-1969

- Phase 1: Charter Review Pilot Committee
 - 9 Members Appointed by Mayor/Confirmed by Council
- Phase 2: Charter Review Blue Ribbon Committee
 - 25 Members (Pilot Committee as Nucleus)
- Phase 3: Citizens' Convention
 - 45 Members (3 members each from Council, Attorney & Manager; 15 by Mayor from panel of 30)
- 17 Ballot Props - November 4, 1969 Election
- 8 Approved by Voters

5. Charter Revision Committee

1973

- 15 Members
 - ▣ 8 Appointed by Council
 - ▣ 7 Appointed by Mayor
- Focus: Form of Government
- 9 Ballot Props - November 6, 1973 Election
- 3 Approved by Voters

6. Charter Review Committee

1982

- 17 Members Appointed by Mayor & Council
- Specifically Tasked with Studying the City of Phoenix Election System & Alternatives
- Information was provided to the City Council, but no Ballot Props came from this Process

7. San Diego City Charter Review Commission 1987-1988

- 15 Members Appointed by Mayor (with Nominations from Council)
- 1 Ballot Prop - November 8, 1988 Election
 - Approved by Voters
- 13 Recommendations went to a City Council Workshop in January 1990
- Of the 13 Recommendations, 6 Ballot Props - November 6, 1990 Election
 - All 6 Approved by Voters

8. Charter Review Committee 2007

- 15 Members Appointed by Mayor with Council Confirmation
 - ▣ City Attorney/IBA Ex-Officio Members
- 3 Subcommittees
 - ▣ Financial Reform (5 Members)
 - ▣ Duties of Elected Officials (5 Members)
 - ▣ Interim Strong Mayor (5 Members)
- 3 Ballot Props - June 3, 2008 Election
- All 3 Approved by Voters

Other Efforts

- 1939 Grand Jury
 - ▣ 26 Recommended Changes
 - ▣ Provided to the 1940/1941 Charter Committee
- 1966 City Attorney
 - ▣ Directed by Council to Review Charter
 - ▣ Provided to the 1968/1969 Charter Committee
- 2000 Charter Change Committee
 - ▣ Citizen Group
 - ▣ Presented Ballot Prop to Council