



CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

City Council Policies

Workshop: April 1, 2024

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City Attorney



Overview

- Community Communication
- Complaints Re: Direct Reports
- Filling Council Vacancies
- Miscellaneous:
 - (1) Attendance
 - (2) Travel
 - (3) All-Council emails
 - (4) Parliamentary Procedure
 - (5) Annual DEI Training
 - (6) Retreats & Fifth Mondays
 - (7) Proclamations
 - (8) Council Compact



Community Communication

1. Quarterly Forum
2. Weekly Meetings with refined 3 min. limit
3. Town Hall with open mic
4. Tabletops (market / coffee)
5. Defined feedback loop





Complaints Re: Direct Reports

Recommend:

1. Timely notification of City Council; and
2. Investigate all plausible allegations that, if true, would constitute a violation of law or policy.

Memorialize via:

- A. Website; and/or
- B. Council Policy.





Councilmanic
Freeze



Freeze via Charter
Amendment



Candidate
not running



Ranked Choice
Voting

Filling Council Vacancies





Councilmanic Freeze

- 4-6 weeks maximum;
- Greatest utility shortly before candidate filing week.



Charter Amendment

- Longer durations permitted;
- Potential consequences of leaving one or more seats unfilled.





Scenario 1

Councilmanic Freeze

used to delay appointment
beyond filing week.

Scenario 2

Charter Amendment

required to postpone
appointment beyond
filing week.

Scenario 3

More than 9-month delay

required to delay beyond
filing week.





Scenario 1

Council vacancy effective
5 Feb 2024

Councilmanic Freeze

can be used to postpone
appointment until after
filing week.

Charter Amendment

would be needed to leave
seat vacant until after
municipal election.

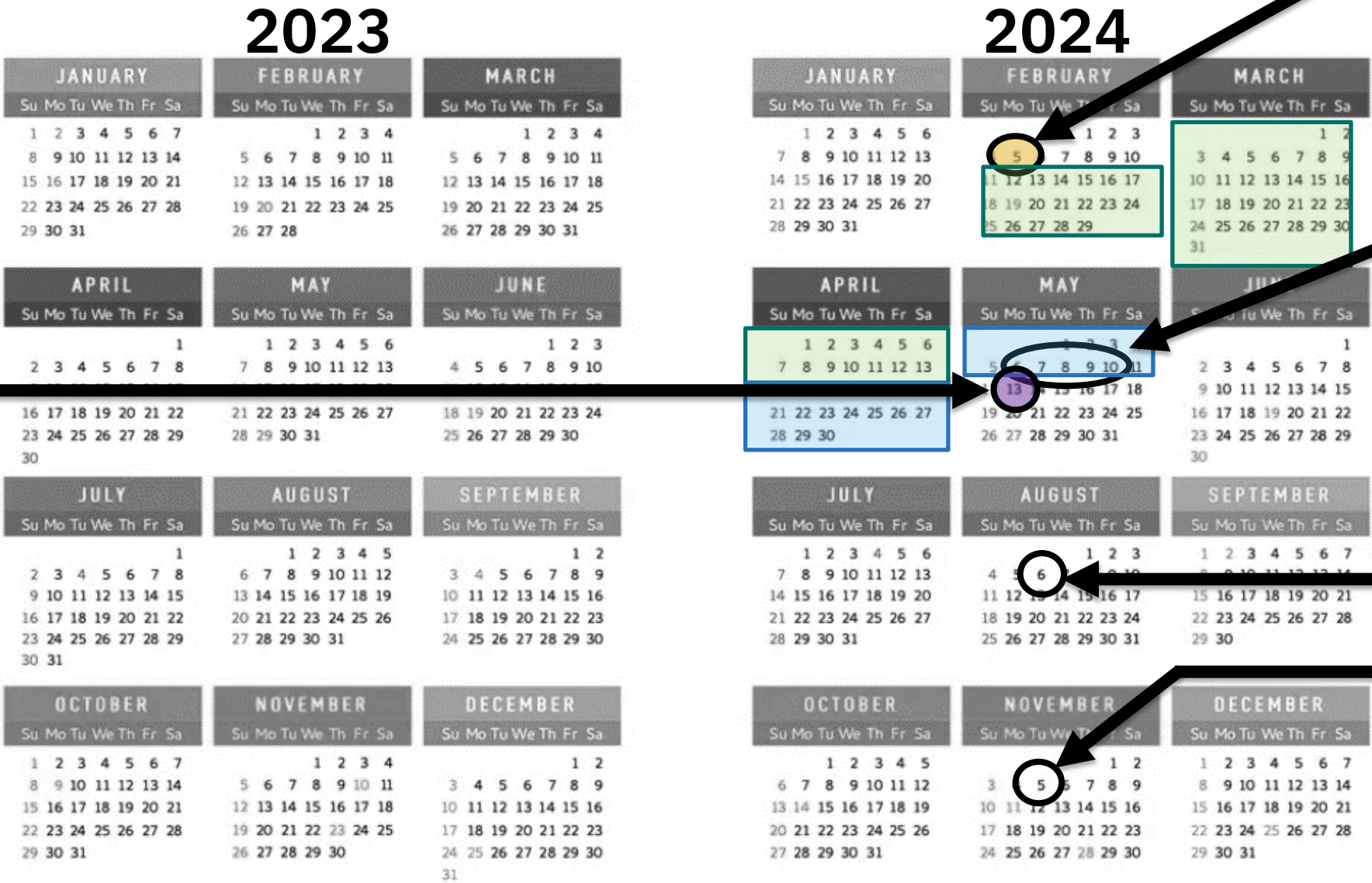


Appointment Process Scenario 1

6-8 Week
Recruitment

Freeze
Period
4 Weeks
Councilmanic

Council
Appointment



Vacancy

Candidate
Filing Week

Primary

General
Election



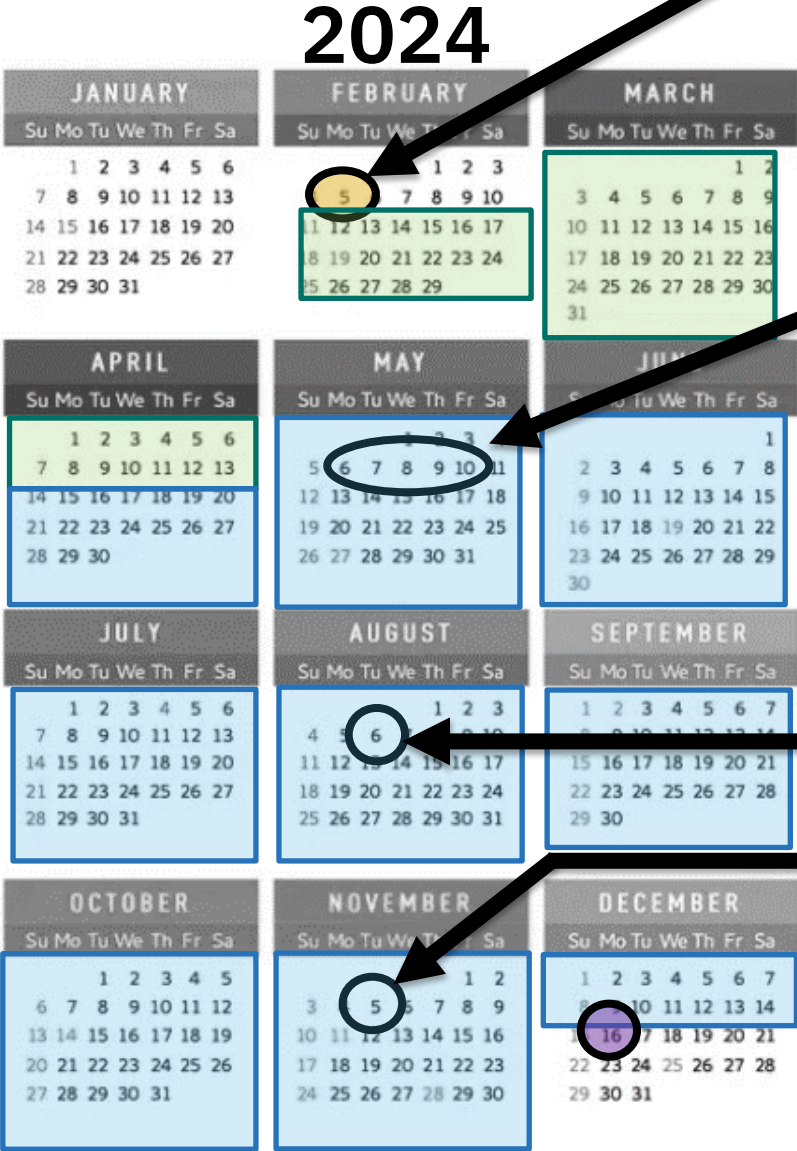
Appointment Process Scenario 1

6-8 Week
Recruitment

Freeze
Period

Charter
Amendment
Required

No Council
Appointment



Vacancy

Candidate
Filing Week

Primary

General
Election





Scenario 2

Council vacancy effective
28 Nov 2023

Councilmanic Freeze
of 4-6 weeks results in
no discernable benefit.

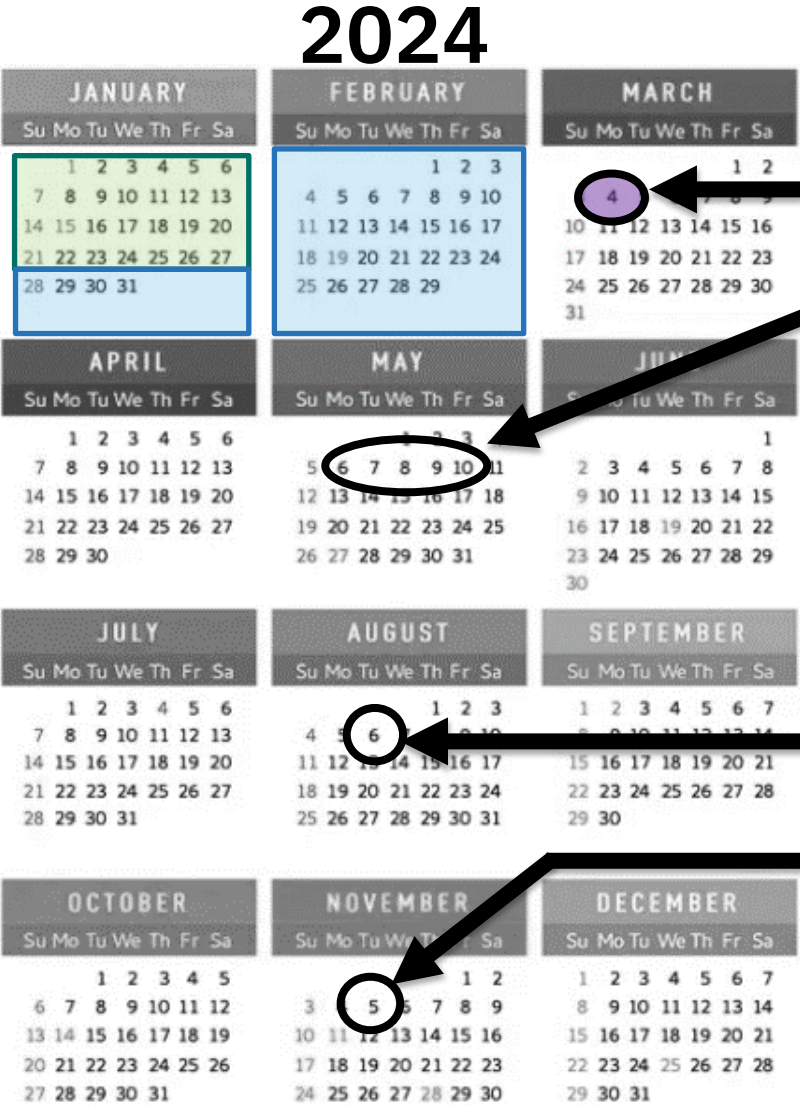
Charter Amendment
would be needed to leave
seat vacant until after
2024 filing week.



Appointment Process Scenario 2

6-8 Week
Recruitment

Freeze
Period
4 Weeks
Councilmanic



Council
Appointment

Candidate
Filing Week

Primary

General
Election



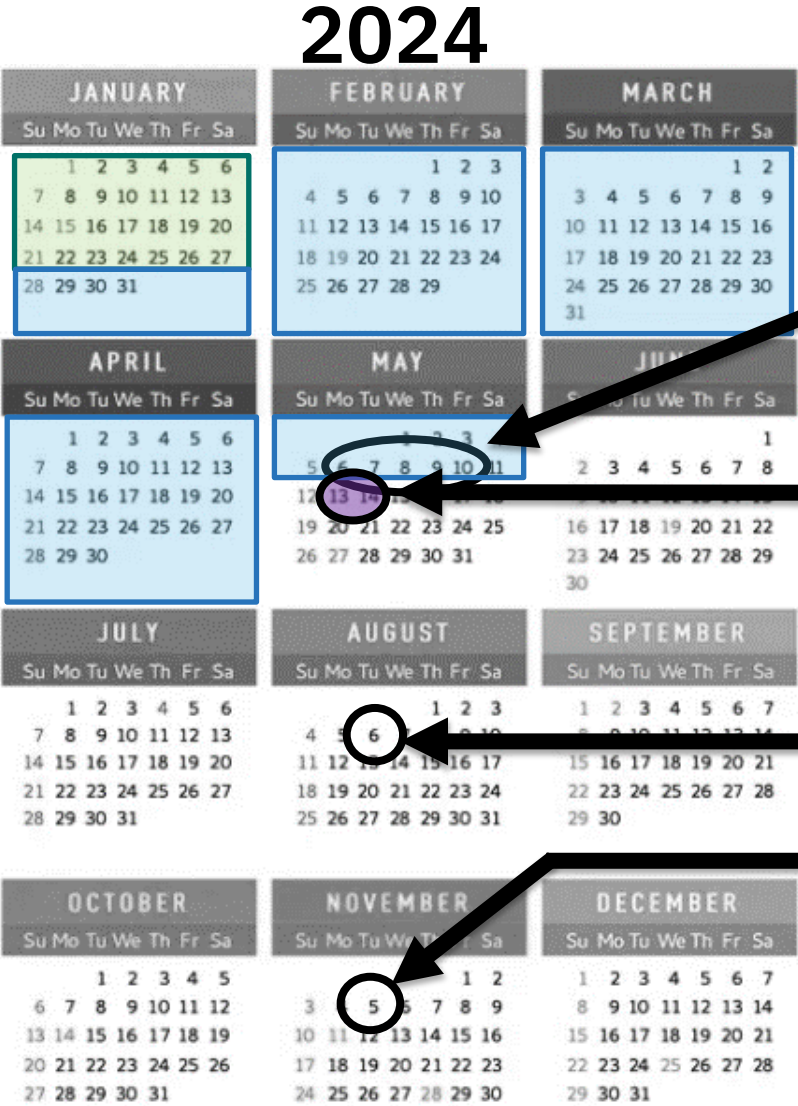
Vacancy

Appointment Process Scenario 2

6-8 Week
Recruitment

Freeze
Period

Charter
Amendment
Required



Candidate
Filing Week

Council
Appointment

Primary

General
Election





Scenario 3

Council vacancy effective
15 May 2023

Councilmanic Freeze
of 4-6 weeks results in
no discernable benefit.

Charter Amendment
would be needed to leave
seat vacant until after
2024 filing week.



Appointment Process

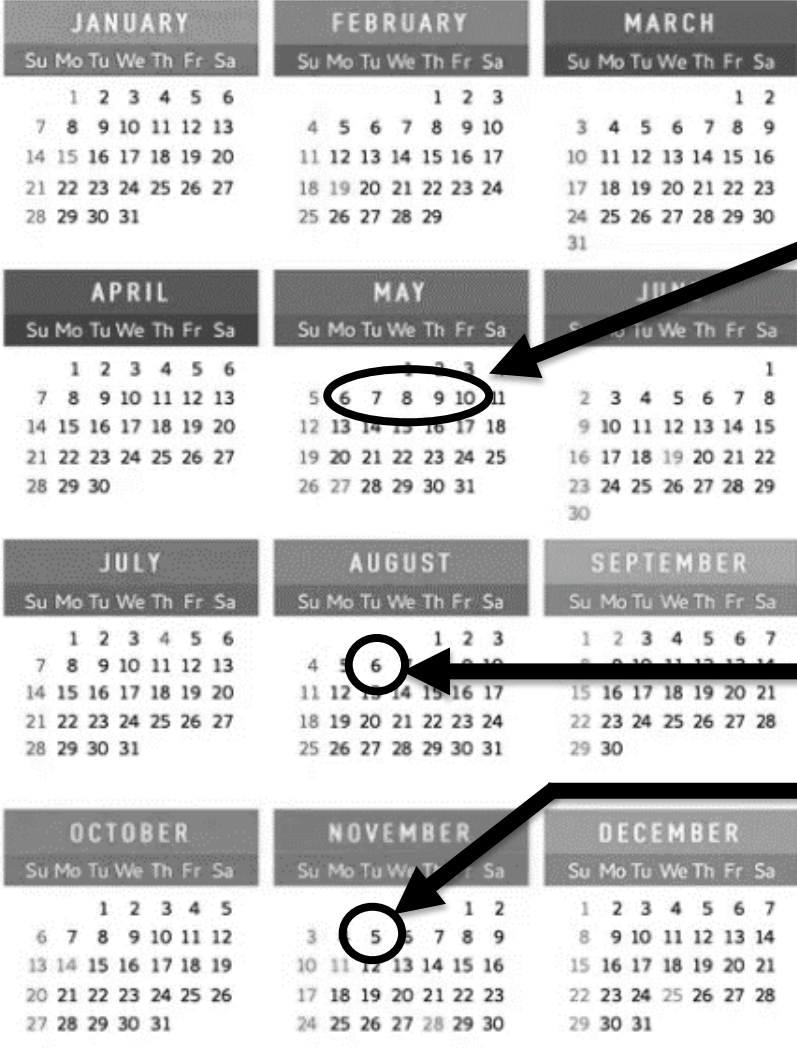
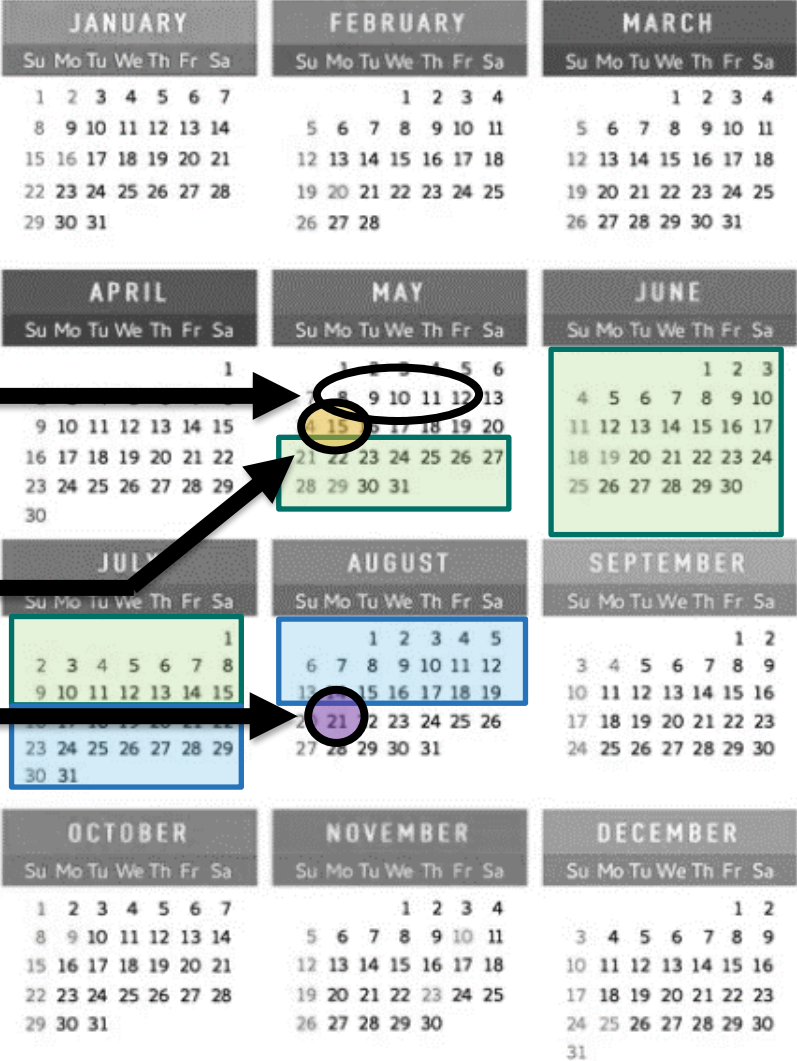
Scenario 3

2023

2024

6-8 Week
Recruitment

Freeze
Period
4 Weeks
Councilmanic



Candidate
Filing Week

Vacancy

Council
Appointment

Candidate
Filing Week

Primary
General
Election



Appointment Process

Scenario 3

6-8 Week
Recruitment

Freeze
Period

Charter
Amendment
Required

Candidate
Filing Week

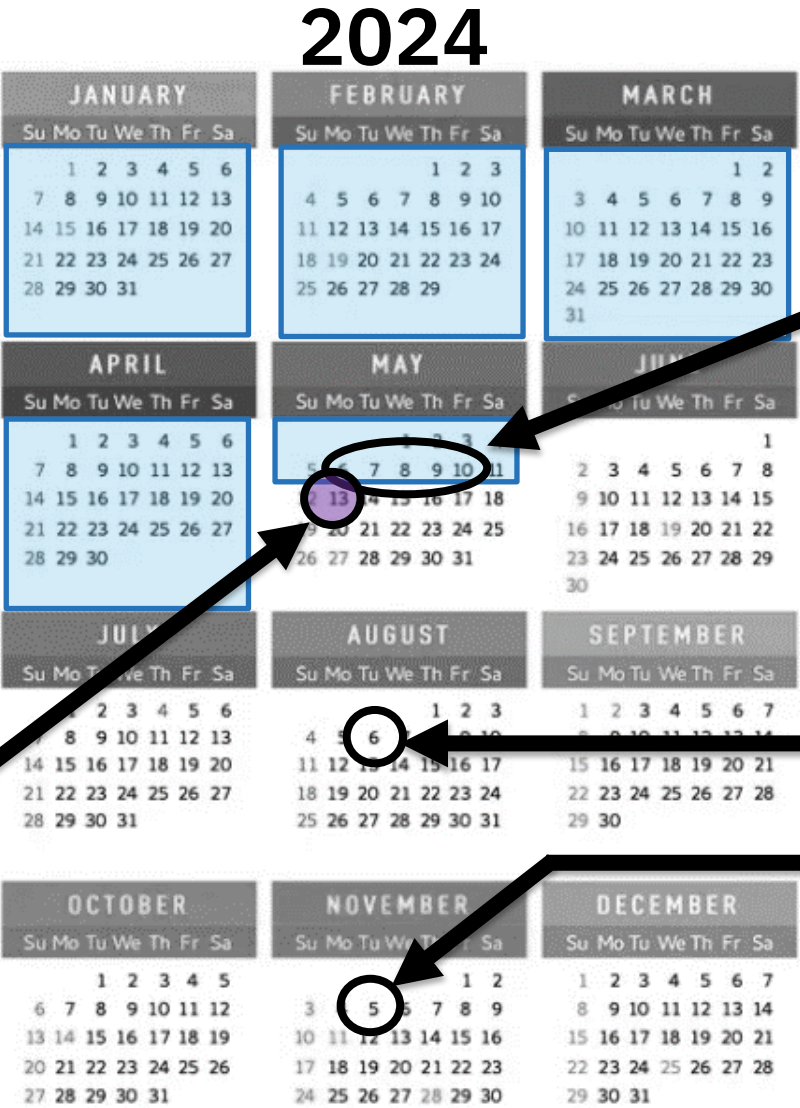
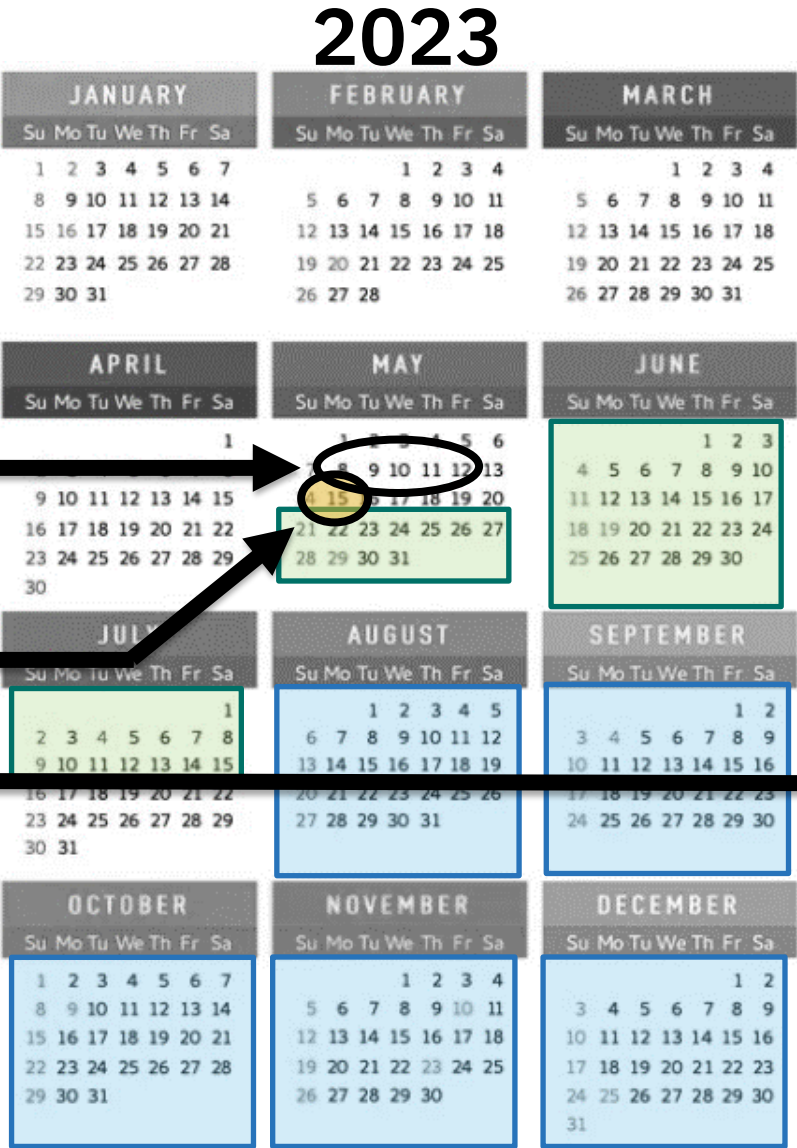
Vacancy

Council
Appointment

Candidate
Filing Week

Primary

General
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Councilmanic
Freeze



Freeze via Charter
Amendment



Candidate
not running



Ranked Choice
Voting

Discussion: Council Vacancies





Council Meetings

1. Attendance (notification of absences);
2. Travel (e.g. conferences or sister city);
3. Communications to the Council – one response on behalf of all;
4. Parliamentary procedure: Increase specificity beyond reference to Robert's Rules;





Council Meetings Continued...

5. Proclamations;
6. Annual training in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and accessibility;
7. Programming Retreats and Fifth Mondays;
8. Council Compact.





Next Steps

- Advance proposed amendments from April 1, 2024 Workshop

(Schedule additional workshop dates as desired by Council.)

- City Attorney to draft any desired amendments
- Preview changes under “Manager Communications”
- Formal consideration of Amendments via Resolution on Consent Agenda



Thank You

