

6/17/2024

RESOLUTION M-\_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION to submit to the voters of the City of Vancouver a proposal to amend Article X, Sections 10.03 and 10.04 of the City Charter removing language referencing physical paper and indelible signatures that would prevent the acceptance of electronic signature on petitions.

WHEREAS, the Committee held seven meetings between October 2023 and April 2024, to review proposed amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee presented their recommendations to the City Council on May 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed hearing on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024 and considered the recommendations of the Committee and voted to submit the proposed amendment to the Charter below to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. That the following amendments to Article X, Sections 10.03 and 10.04 of the City Charter, removing language referencing physical paper and indelible signatures that would prevent the acceptance of electronic signature on petitions, (“Proposed Charter Amendments No. 4”), be submitted to the voters of the City of Vancouver:

(Proposed language to be deleted is shown by ~~striketrough~~. Added language is shown by underline.)

### **Section 10.03 Petitions and Committees:**

- (1) All petitions ~~papers~~ circulated for the purposes of an initiative or referendum shall be uniform ~~in size and style~~. Initiative petitions ~~papers~~ shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance and all other information and warnings required by law. Petitions shall be in a form prescribed by the City Clerk, and may be approved in advance as to form by the City Attorney. Before gathering signatures, any proposed initiated ordinance must be filed with the City Clerk. Within twenty working days after filing, the City Attorney shall evaluate the initiative proposal and express ~~his/her~~ their opinion as to whether or not the initiative proposal is within the scope of a legally permissible local initiative. The signatures to initiative or referendum petitions shall be from registered voters of the City of Vancouver and subject to acceptance by the officer responsible for verification of the sufficiency of signatures under state law. ~~need not all be appended to one paper, but to each separate petition there shall be attached a statement of the circulator thereof as provided by this section. Each signer of any such petition paper shall sign in ink or indelible pencil and shall indicate after such signer's name, the signer's place of residence by street and number, or other description sufficient to identify the place. On each petition shall appear the names and addresses of the same five registered voters of the city, who, as a committee of the petitioners, shall be regarded as responsible for the circulation and filing of the petition. Printed on each separate petition paper there shall be an affidavit of the circulator thereof, affirmed under penalty of perjury, that said circulator personally circulated the foregoing paper, that it bears a stated number of signatures, that all the signatures appended thereto were made in the circulator's presence, and that the circulator believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be.~~
- (2) Acceptance of electronic signatures authorized but not required: nothing in this Charter shall preclude the City Council from authorizing, by resolution, the acceptance of electronic signatures when, and to the extent, allowed by state law.

### **Section 10.04 Filing and Certifying:**

All petition ~~papers~~ sections comprising an initiative or referendum petition shall be assembled and filed with the eCity eClerk as one instrument. Petitions ~~pages~~ must be filed no later than February 1 of the same year as the Municipal General Election is held. Within ten days after a petition is filed, the eCity eClerk shall determine whether each ~~paper~~ section of the petition has a proper statement of the circulator and shall convey the valid signed petition ~~pages~~ sections to the officer responsible for the verification of the sufficiency of the signatures to the petition under state law for such verification. The eCity eClerk shall declare any petition ~~paper~~ section entirely invalid and not submit said petition ~~page~~ section for verification, which does not ~~have printed thereon~~ include an affidavit affirmed under penalty of perjury signed by the circulator thereof. If a petition ~~paper~~ section is found to be signed by more persons than the number of signatures certified by the circulator, the last signatures in excess of the number certified shall be disregarded, and the City Clerk shall strike out the excess signatures. If a petition ~~paper~~ section is found to be signed by fewer persons than the number certified, the signatures shall be accepted unless void on other grounds. After completing examination of the petition, and after receiving

verification of the sufficiency of such petition signatures from the officer responsible for verification of the sufficiency of signatures under state law, the eCity eClerk shall certify the result thereof to the city council at its next regular meeting. If the eClerk certifies that the petition is invalid or has insufficient signatures, the eClerk shall set forth in a certificate the particulars in which it is defective and shall at once notify the committee of the petitioners of such findings.

2. The Clark County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Clark County, is hereby requested to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 4 to the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.

3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take those actions necessary to submit Proposed Charter Amendments No. 4 before the voters at the November 5, 2024 election.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver, this 17th day of June, 2024.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Young, City Attorney