

Charter Amendment:

The people of the city of Richland, exercising their power to amend the City Charter by popular vote under Section 3.08 of the City Charter, enact the following amendment to the Charter of the city of Richland. In amending sections, removals are in ~~red~~ and additions are in **bold**. Charter Amendment section headers are in *italics*.

ARTICLE II – THE COUNCIL

To ensure that members of the city council are closer to the people they represent, to enable voters in the city of Richland to know their councilmembers, and to provide a mixed system of district and at-large representation, the Richland City Council shall consist of seven (7) councilmembers, with positions one (1) through five (5) elected by districts, and positions six (6) and seven (7) elected from the city at-large.

2.01 Number – Terms

The registered electors of the city shall elect a council of seven (7) members, ~~at large,~~ in the following manner:

- (a) **At the first election after approving this Charter amendment, the three (3) district candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall serve until the ~~next~~second regular general election thereafter, and the **two (2) district** candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve until the first regular general election.**
- (b) **The at-large councilmember with the highest number of votes will serve until the second regular election and the at-large councilmember with the next highest number of votes will serve until the next general election. ~~following the election approving this Charter. Commencing at the first regular general election following the election approving this Charter and~~**
- (c) After all subsequent regular general elections **following this Charter amendments, ~~four councilmen shall be elected; each of the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes~~ elected councilmembers** shall serve four-year terms. ~~and the one receiving the fourth highest number of votes shall serve for a two-year term, and subsections (a) and (b) above shall no longer have any effect.~~
- (d) **Incumbent ~~councilmen~~ councilmembers** shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms of office. In the event of a tie vote, the election shall be decided by lot.

2.01A - Districts

The city council electoral districts are defined by precincts using 2020 U.S. Bureau of the Census population data provided by the Benton County Information Technology Department.

2.01A.01 - District One (1)

District One (1) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6105, 6110, 6115, 6120, 6125, 6130, 6135, 6140, 6145, 6150, 6151, 6152, 6155, 6160, 6165

From Davison Ave east between Willis St and Hunt Ave to the eastern boundary of the City at the Columbia River, north along the city's boundary, then west at 13th St, continue west on the northern boundary of the City to Snively Rd, southwest at Snively Rd, then follow the City's western boundary until that boundary is west of Swift Blvd, then east to the intersection of Swift Blvd and Bypass Highway 240, north on Bypass Highway 240, east on Van Geisen St, north on Alder St, then follow the northern boundary of District Two (2) described below, to origin at Davison Ave between Willis St and Hunt Ave.

2.01A.02 - District Two (2)

District Two (2) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6170, 6175, 6180, 6185, 6186, 6190, 6195, 6200, 6205, 6210, 6215, 6220, 6225

From George Washington Way south of Gowen Ave along the pedestrian path to the City's eastern boundary on the Columbia River, north along the City's east boundary, then west between Hunt Ave and Willis St to Davison Ave,

southwest to George Washington Way, then north on George Washington Way to McMurray St, then west on McMurray St to Jadwin Ave, then north on Jadwin Ave, then northeast on Catskill St, then east on Blue Ave, then south on Everest Ave, then east on Newcomer Ave, then north on George Washington Way, west on Catskill St, north on Rainier Ave, west on Coast Street to just past Newcomer Ave, north to just south of Saint Street at Bypass Highway 240, then southwest on Bypass Highway 240 to just west of Alameda Ct, east on Alameda Ct, to south on Stevens Dr, to west on McMurray St, northwest on Duluth St, southwest on Alder Ave, west on Van Giesen St, south on the Bypass Highway 240, east toward the west end of Frankfort St, northwest on Birch Ave, southeast on Lee Blvd, north on Wright Ave, east on Putnam St, north on Potter Ave, east on Williams Blvd, south on Thayer Dr, east on Long Ave, west on Swift Blvd, north on McPherson Ave, east on Williams Blvd, north on Stevens Dr, east on Symons Street, south on Goethals Dr, east on Williams Blvd, south on George Washington Way to the origin at George Washington Way and the pedestrian path at the south end of Gowen Ave.

2.01A.03 - District Three (3)

District Three (3) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6230, 6235, 6240, 6245, 6250, 6255, 6260, 6265, 6270, 6271, 6279, 628

From George Washington Way south of Gowan Ave at the pedestrian trail go east to the City's boundary on the Columbia River, go south along the eastern boundary to the on and off ramps of State Highway 240 at Columbia Park Trail, go south to Columbia Park Trail, northwest on Columbia Park Trail, south on Leslie Rd, to west on Canyon Ave, then west south of Oxford Ave, to past Brookwood Ave, then west and then north on Englewood Dr, northwest on Edgewood St to the Yakima River, follow the Yakima River north then east to the intersection of Swift Blvd and Bypass Highway 240, follow the District Two (2) southern boundary to origin at George Washington Way and the pedestrian path at the south end of Gowan Ave.

2.01A.04 - District Four (4)

District Four (4) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6275, 6278, 6281, 6282, 6284, 6286, 6287, 6288, 6289, 6290, 6291, 6292

From Gage Blvd east of Bellerive Dr at the boundary between the City and Kennewick, to west on Gage Blvd to the East Badger Lateral irrigation canal north of Morency Drive, follow the irrigation canal northwest to where it intersects I-182, then north just east of Tomich Ave to just north of Keene Rd, north along the City and the West Richland boundary to just past Eastlake Ct, east to the Yakima River, then follow the District Three (3) boundary to the on/off ramps of State Highway 240 at Columbia Point Trail, north towards the Columbia River, east along Richland's Columbia River Boundary to near the boundary with Kennewick, then follow the City and Kennewick boundary to origin at Gage Blvd east of Bellerive Dr.

This does not include two pieces of unincorporated Benton County, Precinct 5603, which includes View Dr., Chamna View Ln., Valley View Rd, Jericho Rd and a portion of Columbia Park Trail. It also does not include two pieces of unincorporated Benton County, which includes Keene Ct., Precinct 5635. The district also does not include unincorporated Benton County designated precinct 5634 and located between Shockley Road and Meadow Hills Dr.

2.01A.05 - District Five (5)

District Five (5) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6283, 6285, 6293, 6295, 6300, 6301, 6305, 6310, 6311, 6315, 6316, 6320, 6321

Beginning at the intersection of W. Gage Blvd. and N. Steptoe Street, go south then southwest along the City and Kennewick boundary to I-82, then follow the boundary between the City and Benton County to near Kennedy St, then east along the City and West Richland boundary to the District Four (4) boundary, follow the District Four (4) boundary to W. Gage Blvd east of Bellerive Dr, continue east to origin at the intersection of W. Gage Blvd and N. Steptoe St.

This district does not include a piece of unincorporated Benton County at the end of W. Gage, precinct 5636.

In case of any conflict precincts prevail over the descriptions stated herein. References to a street, avenue, or right of way above refer to the middle of said street, avenue, or right of way. Abbreviations used are: "St" for Street, "Ave" for Avenue, "Blvd" for Boulevard, "Dr" for Drive, "City" for the city of Richland.

2.01B - Council Redistricting

- (a) By October 31, 2032, after results of the 2030 U.S. Census has been established, and each tenth year thereafter, a four-member Districting Commission shall be appointed by a vote of five of the seven members of the city council. A fifth member shall be appointed to the Districting Commission by a majority vote of the first four appointed Districting Commission members. Every effort shall be made by the council to ensure each district is represented on the commission. A maximum of two members can reside in the same district. The Commission shall elect a chair from among its members. No person may serve on the Commission who is an elected official, a registered lobbyist, a candidate for elective office, a city employee, a person holding a business contract with the city, or a spouse or relative of a sitting councilmember.
- (b) The Districting Commission shall meet no later than two months after appointment, or November 30, whichever occurs first, to select and appoint a districting master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a districting plan. If the Commission is unable to agree upon the appointment of a districting master, the current council shall by a majority vote, promptly appoint a districting master. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, and the Commission shall conduct at least one public forum about the districting before adopting any plan.
- (c) District boundaries shall be drawn to produce compact and contiguous districts that are not gerrymandered. The population of the largest district shall not exceed the population of the smallest by more than five (5) percent. To the extent practical, district boundaries shall follow existing district boundaries, recognized waterways, natural and geographic boundaries, and Richland communities and neighborhoods. Neither the Commission nor the districting master shall consider the residence of any person.
- (d) The districting master shall draw a districting plan for the City, and submit it to the Districting Commission by February 1 of the year following their appointment. The Commission shall develop, approve by majority vote, and make public a draft of the first districts proposal. After a public comment, the Districting Commission shall approve by majority vote a final districts plan. The Districting Commission shall have all powers reasonably necessary to carry out its purpose. The Commission may employ experts, consultants and attorneys not employed by the city, and shall prepare financial statements and compose and turn over to the City Clerk an official record of all relevant information used. Upon adoption, the districting plan shall be filed with the City Clerk no later than May 1. The plan shall become effective upon filing and cannot be amended by the City Council except to correct data errors upon request by the Districting Commission.
- (e) The City Council shall take all steps necessary to enable the Commission to function, including appropriations sufficient to provide a reasonable per diem for Commission members, compensation for staff and contractors, and reasonable expenses up to 90 days following the submission of the final district plan to the city clerk.
- (f) In the event of a City annexation effective at any time other than in 2024, or in the second year following a federal decennial census up to the date in which a Districting Commission's district plan is adopted, the City Council shall, prior to the annexation, allocate the annexed area to the nearest Council District or districts, adjusting the boundaries as appropriate but not shifting any area already within the City from one Council District to another. The allocation of the annexed area into an existing district or among existing districts must be carried out in a fashion that will result in adjusted districts that continue to be consistent with applicable legal requirements for district boundaries. For all other annexations, district boundary adjustments shall be determined by the Districting Commission that would already have been appointed in ordinary course pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

2.01C - Savings Clause; Liberal Construction

The provisions of this charter amendment are to be liberally construed to achieve its purposes. The terms and provisions of the Amendment are severable, if any are found invalid this shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

2.02 - Qualifications

~~Councilmen~~ **Councilmembers** shall be registered electors; shall have been residents of the city for a continuous period of at least two years next prior to the election or appointment, **and shall be residents of their district for one hundred-eighty (180) days prior to the registering for the primary, general or special election or their appointment. Councilmember candidates and appointees shall submit verifiable proof of residence within their districts unless they are seeking an at-large seat.**

Councilmembers shall hold no other public office during their term except in the National Guard, organized reserves, or as a notary public, and shall not be employed by the City. Before entering upon their duties, and within ten days after the issuance of the certificate of his election, or their appointment by the Council, each **councilmember** shall qualify by taking, subscribing, and filing with the City clerk an oath or affirmation as prescribed by this Charter.

2.03 Removal from or Forfeiture of Office – Vacancies

Any **councilman councilmember** may be removed from office by recall as provided by law. A **councilman councilmember** shall be deemed to have forfeited their office, thereby creating a vacancy, upon any of the following grounds: failure to qualify or enter upon **his their** duties within the time limited by law; ceasing to be a resident of the City **or the district they represent**, conviction of an infamous crime, or any offense involving a violation of this Charter or **his their** official oaths; failure or refusal to take **his their** oath of office; ceasing to have the qualifications prescribed in this Charter, general laws, or City ordinances; or a failure to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council without being excused by the Council. In addition to the foregoing, the office of a **councilman councilmember** shall become vacant upon **his their** death, removal from office, or resignation. If a superior court determines that a member of Council is unable or incapable of reasonably fulfilling **his/her their** duties because of illness or any other reason, excused or unexcused, for at least six (6) continuous months thereafter, or is unlikely to so perform, the position filled by such Councilmember shall be considered vacant. [Approved General Election 1991]

2.04 Filling Vacancies in Council

A vacancy in the Council shall be filled at the next regular general election following the occurrence of the vacancy, except that the Council by a majority vote of all **of** the remaining members shall, within sixty days, **appoint a person who qualifies for the position vacated** to serve in the vacancy until the person elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term takes office. If a vacancy shall remain unfilled for sixty days, then the mayor shall make the appointment. Notwithstanding the requirement in Section 2.08 that a quorum of the Council shall consist of four members, if at any time the membership of the Council is reduced to less than four, the remaining members may make appointments to raise the membership of the Council to four. The names of candidates to fill a vacancy in the Council shall occupy a separate position on the election ballot. Any person elected to serve the remainder of an unexpired term shall take office at the next meeting, regular or special, of the Council following the certification of **his their** election.