



City Election Reform

Mayor and Council Work Session

May 19, 2025





Presentation Outline:

- ❑ **Background**
- ❑ **Facilitated Discussion**
- ❑ **Next steps**



Charter Review Commissions

2012 Charter Review Commissions

- **Created April 30, 2012**
- **Reviewed and evaluated Article II, Section 1(a) and Article II, Section 4**
- **Report issued on December 19, 2012**



2020 Charter Review Commissions

- **Created February 24, 2020; Given mandate on November 2, 2020.**
- **Tasked to review and make recommendations on election-related topics, e.g., size of the council; term limits; representative Districts, etc.**
- **Report issued on September 30, 2022.**



Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE)

Reports to Mayor and Council

- **On October 24, 2022, BSE delivered a report on FYs 2021 and 2022 accomplishments and goals for 2023.**
- **Recommended two changes to the City Charter and several to Chapter 8 of the City Code.**
- **On Feb. 27, 2023, BSE had follow-up discussion with Mayor and Council**



Previous Mayor and Council Actions

- **Feb 6, 2023: Increase the number of councilmembers from 4 to 6 (*Resolution No. 01-23*)**
- **June 12, 2023: Amended Chapter 8 of the City Code (*Ordinance No. 9-23*)**
- **July 17, 2023: Approved a resolution to proceed with 4 ballot questions in the 2023 city elections**



Current Mayor and Council

- **Received BSE report on the 2023 election that outlined accomplishments, issues, and lessons learned.**
- **BSE recommended a complete rewrite of Chapter 8 before the 2027 election.**
- **Directed staff to schedule a work session on city elections.**
- **RFP issued and The Gant Group selected for the city election reform project.**



The Gant Group, Inc.

- **A full-service election administration consulting firm.**
- **Led by former Secretary of State Jason Gant.**
- **Experience working in and with government agencies from an election official's point of view.**
- **Assisted states, counties, and cities with their election administration processes.**



Work Session Outcome

Input from Mayor and Council

- **Election Laws**
- **Campaign Finance**
- **Election Process and Procedures**
- **Board of Supervisors of Elections**
- **2023 Ballot Measures**
- **Other topics of interest**



Election Laws

- **What aspects of the City's Charter – Article III, should be subject to reform?**
- **What aspects of the City Code - Chapter 8, should be subject to reform?**



Campaign Finance

- **What aspects of the City's Campaign Finance laws should be subject to reform?**
 - I. **Campaign funds and Independent expenditures**
 - II. **Enforcement**



Election Process and Procedures

- **What aspects of the City's election process and procedures should be subject to reform?**
 - i. **Election Procedures**
 - ii. **Pre-Election**
 - iii. **Election Day**
 - iv. **Post-Election**



Board of Supervisors of Elections

- **What should be the role and responsibility of the Board of Supervisors of Elections in the administration of City elections?**
 - i. **Current**
 - ii. **Future**
- **What should be the role of staff in the administration of elections?**



2023 Ballot Measures

Should the subject of any of the 2023 advisory referenda be incorporated into the election code?

Votes on Ballot Questions						
Question	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	No Opinion	Percent
Question 1 - Voting Age: Currently you must be 18 years old to vote. Should Rockville allow 16-17 year olds to vote in City elections?	3,601	28.77	8,665	69.23	250	2
Question 2 - Non-Citizen Voting: Currently only U.S. citizens who live in Rockville can vote in City elections. Should Rockville allow residents who are not U.S. citizens to vote in City elections?	4,208	33.89	7,926	63.84	281	2.26
Question 3 - Term Limits: Currently there are no term limits for Mayor and City Council members. Should Rockville limit the Mayor and Council members to 3 consecutive terms?	9,267	74.09	2,786	22.27	455	3.64
Question 4 - Representative Districts: Currently, City Council members are elected at large. That means the entire city votes for all 6 members. Should some or all of the 6 council members be elected by representative districts?	5,090	40.84	6,378	51.18	995	7.98



Other Items

- **Are there other topics of interest to the Mayor and Council regarding the city elections?**



Next Steps

Monday, May 19 6:30-8 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session
Thursday, June 5 7-9 pm	Session 1 - Community Engagement
Saturday, June 7 9 am-12:00 pm	Session 2 - Community Engagement
Monday, June 16 6:30-8 pm	Mayor and Council Work Session
Monday, July 21 6:30-7:30 pm	Mayor and Council Final Report Presentation