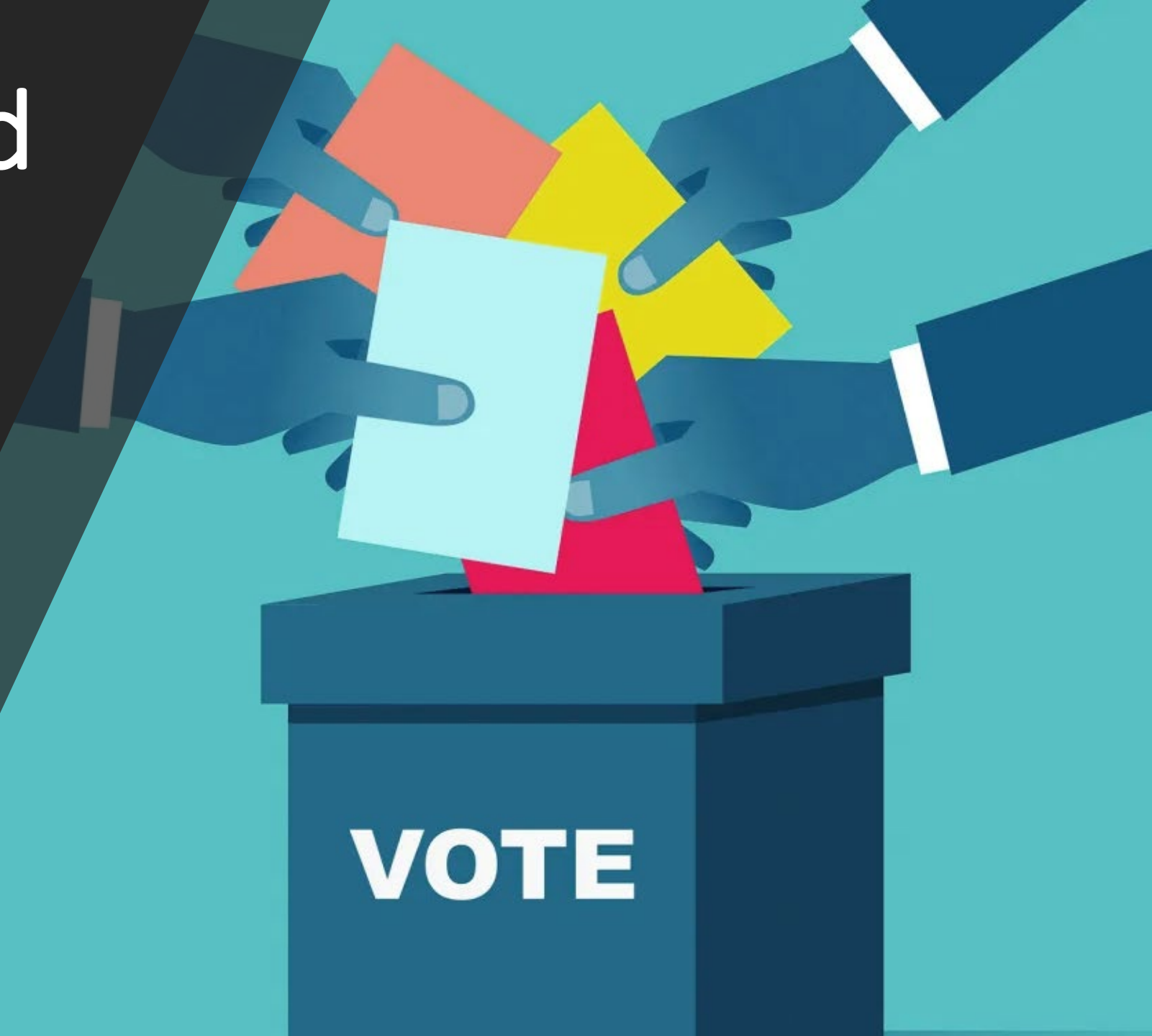


2023 Proposed City Charter Amendments



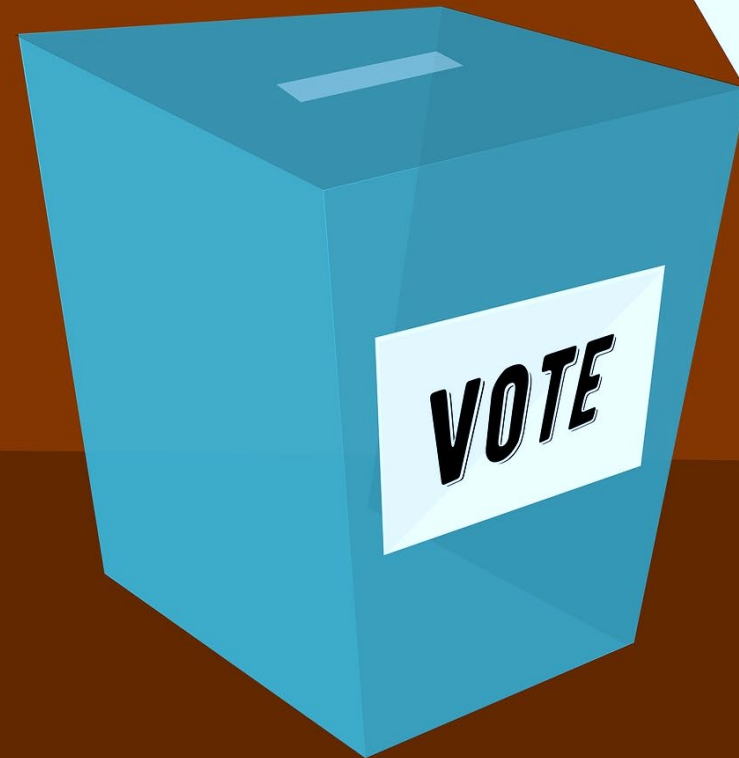
City Charter

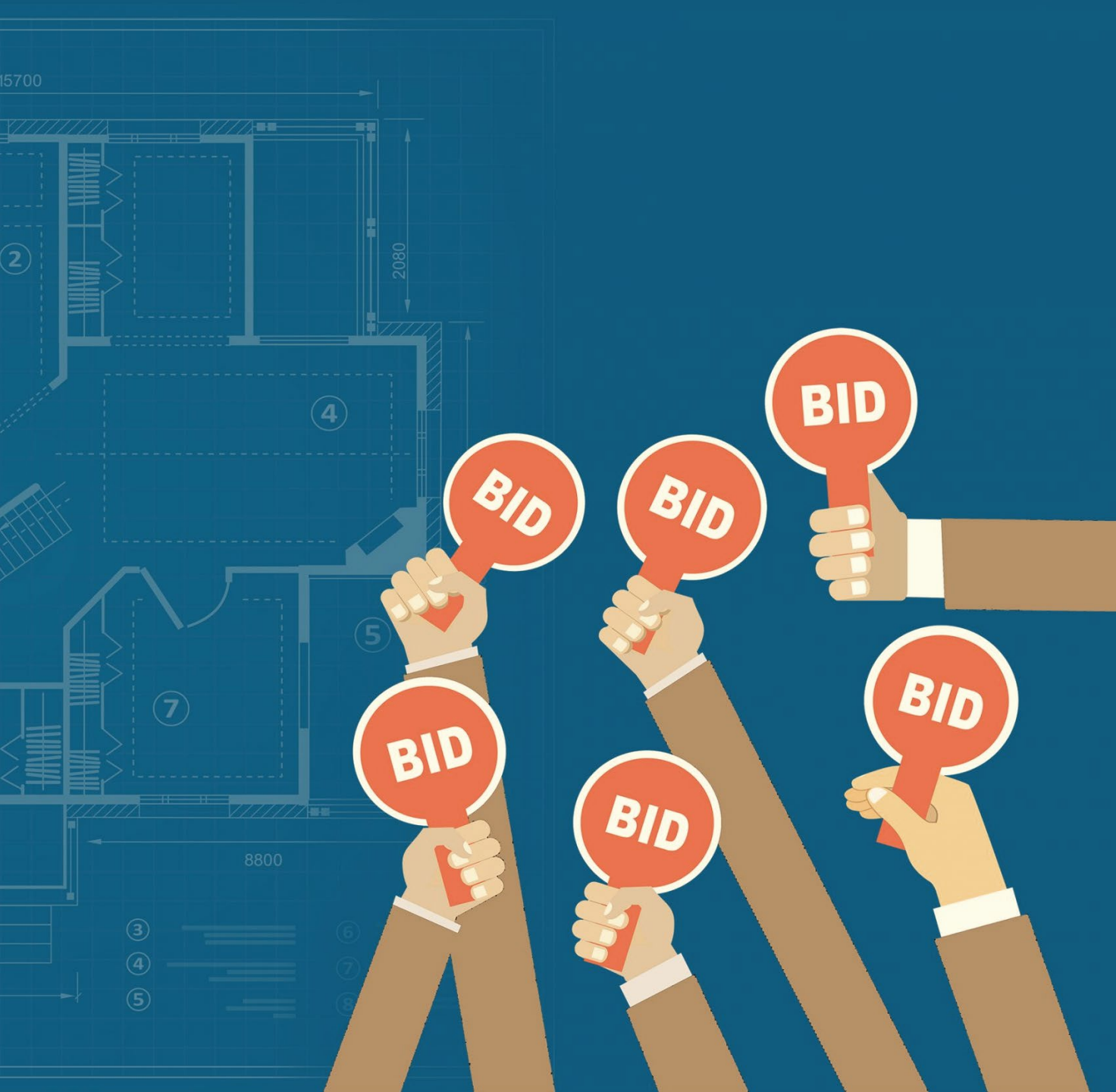
- Municipal foundational document that defines the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of a city government.
- Comparable to the Constitution of the United States or a state's constitution.
- In Oklahoma, any city or town containing a population of two thousand (2,000) inhabitants or more may adopt a charter for its own government.



Ward Specific Voting

- Related to changing the election of City Commissioners from an at-large electorate to the qualified voters residing in a specific ward.
- Amends:
 - Article III, Section 2
 - Article XIV, Section 3 and Section 5
- Reasoning: This proposition has been requested both from citizens and Commissioners to be brought to a vote of the people.





Competitive Bidding

- Related to the repeal of competitive bidding provision contained within the Charter to be replaced with language that the City shall abide by Oklahoma statutory competitive bidding requirements.
- Amends
 - Article XV, Section 2
- Reasoning: To avoid any conflict with state law pertaining to this topic, this section will be repealed and replaced with a general statement that the City will abide by State law.

Swearing-In of Mayor & Commissioners

- Related to the timing of the swearing-in of the Mayor and Commissioners to comport with the change from regularly scheduled, bi-monthly meetings to monthly meetings of the Board of Commissioners.
- Amends:
 - Article III, Section 4 and Section 6
- Reasoning: The swearing-in of the Mayor and Commissioners conflicts with other provisions and creates timing issues with the terms of these elected officials.



Qualifications for City Employees

- Related to the repeal of residency and citizenship qualification requirements for City employees to create consistency with State and Federal laws.
- Amends:
 - Article V, Section 8
- Reasoning: To avoid any potential conflict with State and Federal laws pertaining to this topic, this section will be repealed.





Conflict of Interest Policy for Commissioners & City Employees/Officers

- Related to the repeal of the conflict-of-interest policy contained within the Charter to be replaced with language that the City shall abide by Oklahoma statutory conflict of interest policies for Commissioners, City employees, and City officers.
- Amends
 - Article XVI, Section 1
- Reasoning: To avoid any conflict with State law pertaining to this topic, this section will be removed and replaced with a general statement that the City will abide by State law.

Twin Lakes Regulation

- Related to the repeal of Charter provisions relating to the Shawnee Twin Lakes that are addressed in existing City ordinances and resolutions.
- Amends:
 - Article IX, Section 1
- Reasoning: To remove duplication and potential conflict with City ordinances and resolutions, this proposition would repeal current Charter language.



Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund

- Related to the repeal of the cemetery perpetual care fund provision contained within the Charter to be replaced with language that the City shall abide by Oklahoma statutory cemetery perpetual care fund requirements.
- Amends:
 - Article XII, Section 6(b)
- Reasoning: To avoid any conflict with State law pertaining to this topic, this section will be repealed and replaced with a general statement that the City will abide by State law.



Important Amendments to the Shawnee City Charter

Proposition 1: Ward-Specific Voting for Commissioners

Current Charter language calls for a Commissioner to be nominated from the Ward in which he/she resides, and the Commissioner is then elected by vote of the City at-large. Citizens and elected officials proposed this amendment to determine if the citizens of Shawnee would prefer to have only Ward residents elect the Commissioner for that Ward.

If approved, residents of the individual Ward, registered to vote, will have the opportunity to vote for the Commissioner they wish to represent their specific Ward.

Proposition 2: Streamlining the Bidding Process

Current Charter language requires contractors and vendors to comply with local procedures not necessarily required by the State of Oklahoma. By aligning the City procedures with State law, the contractors' and vendors' familiarity with the common process will save the City time and money.

If approved, this amendment will align the City's competitive bidding requirements with those required by the State of Oklahoma, providing procedural clarity.

Proposition 3: Clarifying Start Date for Newly-elected Mayor and Commissioners

Current Charter language requires the swearing-in of newly-elected Mayors and Commissioners on a specific date that does not always coincide with the dates of regularly scheduled City Commission meetings.

If approved, this amendment will adjust the term of office for a newly-elected official to start on the first regularly scheduled City Commission meeting following the election certification.

Proposition 4: Updating Requirements for City Employees

Current Charter language conflicts with State and Federal employment regulations and laws.

If approved, this amendment will expand employment prospects and align the City's employment requirements with State and Federal laws.

Proposition 5: Aligning Conflict-of-Interest Policies

Current Charter language differs from the requirements established by State law.

If approved, this amendment will align the City's requirements for Commissioners, City officers, and employees with those established by State law.

Proposition 6: Updating the Recreational Use Policy for Shawnee Twin Lakes

Current Charter language related to swimming, water skiing, surfboard riding, and other water recreation sports conflicts with Shawnee Twin Lakes related City codes, most recently updated in March 2022 following the conclusion of an in-depth review by the Lake Advisory Committee.

If approved, this amendment will align the Charter with adopted City codes regulating recreational activities on the Shawnee Twin Lakes.

Proposition 7: Updating the Policy for Cemetery Perpetual Care

Current Charter language regarding the management of revenues generated at the municipal cemetery for Perpetual Care Funds differs from requirements established by State law.

If approved, this amendment will align the Charter with State law regarding the management of Perpetual Care Funds for the Fairview Cemetery.

YOUR VOTE, YOUR CHOICE ON JUNE 13, 2023



Get More Info

- City of Shawnee *dedicated web page*
bit.ly/ShawneeCharter
- Outreach
 - CityManager@ShawneeOK.org
 - 405.878.1601

