

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO: 2009-73

SPONSOR: Councilwoman Carroll

SUBJECT: Amending the Charter of the City of Jefferson

DATE INTRODUCED: September 21, 2009

Summary: The Charter of the City of Jefferson may be revised only upon an election by the voters of Jefferson City. The Charter itself provides for this process of amendment and thereby anticipated a need for review and revision. This bill would submit proposed amendments to the Charter for review by the electorate. By passing this bill the City Council would not, by virtue of the vote, be recommending the changes to the electorate but would be scheduling an election to allow the electorate to determine whether the changes are appropriate. The proposed changes include:

1. Provide that the limitation of a Council Member to serve eight years includes only service following an election and not resulting from a mid-term appointment
2. Prohibiting citizens from running for Mayor if the person owes an unpaid debt to the City.
3. Eliminates the requirement that the Police Personnel Board be appointed based upon political party affiliation; and affirm that police officers are at-will employees; and allow a police officer appealing a disciplinary action to elect to have the hearing either open to the public or closed to the public;
4. Allowing the City Council to amend ward boundaries when necessary and not only following a decennial census
5. Allow the City Council to contract directly for franchise agreements.

Background Information: Over a year ago the Administration Committee requested that staff bring forward suggested changes to the Charter. Staff did so over the course of the last year and the Committee pared down and revised those proposals. At the August Administration Committee meeting the Committee passed the proposed changes on to the City Council unanimously.

Fiscal Information: None

Origin of Request: Administration Committee / City Staff

Department Responsible: Law

Person Responsible: Nathan Nickolaus

Staff Recommendation: Approve