

CHARTER AMENDMENT PETITION

Columbus City Charter Sections 42 and 45,
Ohio Revised Code Sections 3501.38, 3503.06
Ohio Constitution, Art. XVIII, Sections 9 and 4

NOTE: Prior to circulation of a charter amendment petition, a certified copy of the petition must be filed with the City Clerk.

NOTICE: Whoever knowingly signs this petition more than once; signs a name other than one's own on this petition, except as provided by general laws of the state; or signs this petition when not a qualified elector of the City of Columbus, is liable to prosecution.

To the City Clerk of the city of Columbus, Ohio:

We, the undersigned, electors of the city of Columbus, Ohio respectfully request that the charter amendment proposed herein be submitted to a vote of the electors of this city for their approval or rejection forthwith as provided by the Columbus City Charter;

The following is a full and correct copy of the title and text of the proposed Charter Amendment:

To amend the City Charter to create a City Council elected from 9 single member council districts.

Sec. 3. - Legislative powers.

The legislative powers of the city, except as reserved to the people by this charter, shall be vested in a council, consisting of nine members with one elected from each of nine council districts solely by the electors of each such council district.

Sec. 4. - Council members.

Each member of council shall be elected from one of nine districts solely by the electors residing in ~~of the city~~ each such council district. All council members shall serve for a term of four years.

Sec. 4-1. - Transition.

This section provides for a transition from ~~the seven member council elected at large~~ to the nine-member council provided by this charter to the nine members elected solely by electors of each district, and maintains the current practice of staggered terms for members of council. ~~Notwithstanding Sec. 3 of this charter, council shall be composed of seven members elected at large until the first day of January in 2024.~~

~~Notwithstanding Sec. 4 of this charter, the terms of all council members elected or appointed prior to the 2023 2027 general election shall end on the first day of January in 2024 2028. At the primary election in 2023 2027, candidates for council shall be nominated from nine districts by the electors of each such district the city, and at the general election in 2023 2028, nine council members shall be elected from nine districts by the electors of each such district the city.~~ At the first meeting of council in 2028 2024, the city clerk shall divide the council districts into two classes by drawing lots. Lot A shall consist of five districts and the members from those districts shall serve a four year term. Lot B shall consist of four districts and the members from those districts shall serve a two year term, and candidates for those districts shall stand for election to a four year term in 2025

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2029, marking the end of the transition period.

Sec. 7-1. - Membership of the Districting Commission.

The commission shall be formed as follows: by a two-thirds vote the council shall appoint four members, and the fifth member, who shall serve as chair of the commission, shall be jointly appointed by the mayor and president of council. All members must be qualified electors of the city. Members should reflect, to the extent practicable, the diversity of the city. No person may serve on the commission if the person is an elected official (except precinct committee members), a lobbyist registered with the City of Columbus, a candidate for elective office, ~~or a current city employee, or a past city employee within the past 15 years~~. The appointing authority may remove a member of the commission for neglect of duty, gross misconduct, failure to meet the qualification herein, or inability to discharge the duties of the commission, and such decision shall be final. All vacancies shall be filled in the same manner prescribed for the original appointment.

The commission shall be considered a public body. The records of the commission shall be a permanent public record. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to do business. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation. The council shall appropriate sufficient funds to meet the reasonable operational needs of the commission.

Sec. 7-2. - Districting criteria.

The districting commission shall create and submit three districting plans which lay out the boundaries of the nine council districts for the city of Columbus, using the following criteria:

1. Districts shall comply with the United States and Ohio constitutions, this charter, and all applicable local, state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, the federal Voting Rights Act and any successor thereto.
2. Each district shall have reasonably equal population with other districts based on data from the most recent federal census, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act and any successor thereto or is otherwise allowable by law; but in no instance may the population of the largest district exceed that of the smallest district by more than ~~one~~ four percent.
3. Districts shall be geographically contiguous, with boundaries of each district comprised of a single nonintersecting continuous line.
4. To the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations.
5. To the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn to maintain the geographic integrity of a neighborhood or community of interest.
6. To the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn using the boundaries of existing election precincts, council districts, and geographically identifiable boundaries, such as roads and waterways.
7. Districts shall not be drawn for the overt purpose of favoring or disfavoring any political group.

Sec. 7-3. - Adoption of a Districting Plan.

The commission shall develop no less than three districting plans that comply with the requirements of the charter. In developing these plans, the first districting commission shall conduct public meetings in nine areas of the city before submitting plans to council; and subsequent commissions shall hold one public meeting in each of the nine council districts. Audiovisual records of the meetings shall be made available using a medium readily accessible by the general public.

The commission shall provide a means whereby any resident of the city of Columbus may submit a proposed districting plan for review by the commission. The commission shall establish and publicize a period of no less

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than 30 consecutive days for residents to submit such plans.

The commission shall make at least three plans available for public inspection and comment no less than 30 consecutive days prior to approval and submission of such plans to the council.

No later than nine months after appointment, the commission shall vote to approve and submit three districting plans to the council, including with each plan a statement explaining how the plan complies with the districting requirements herein. Council shall not modify any districting plan or portion thereof, except to ensure compliance with the requirements of this charter. No later than December 31st of the year of submission, council shall pass an ordinance, which shall be an emergency measure, adopting one of the districting plans.

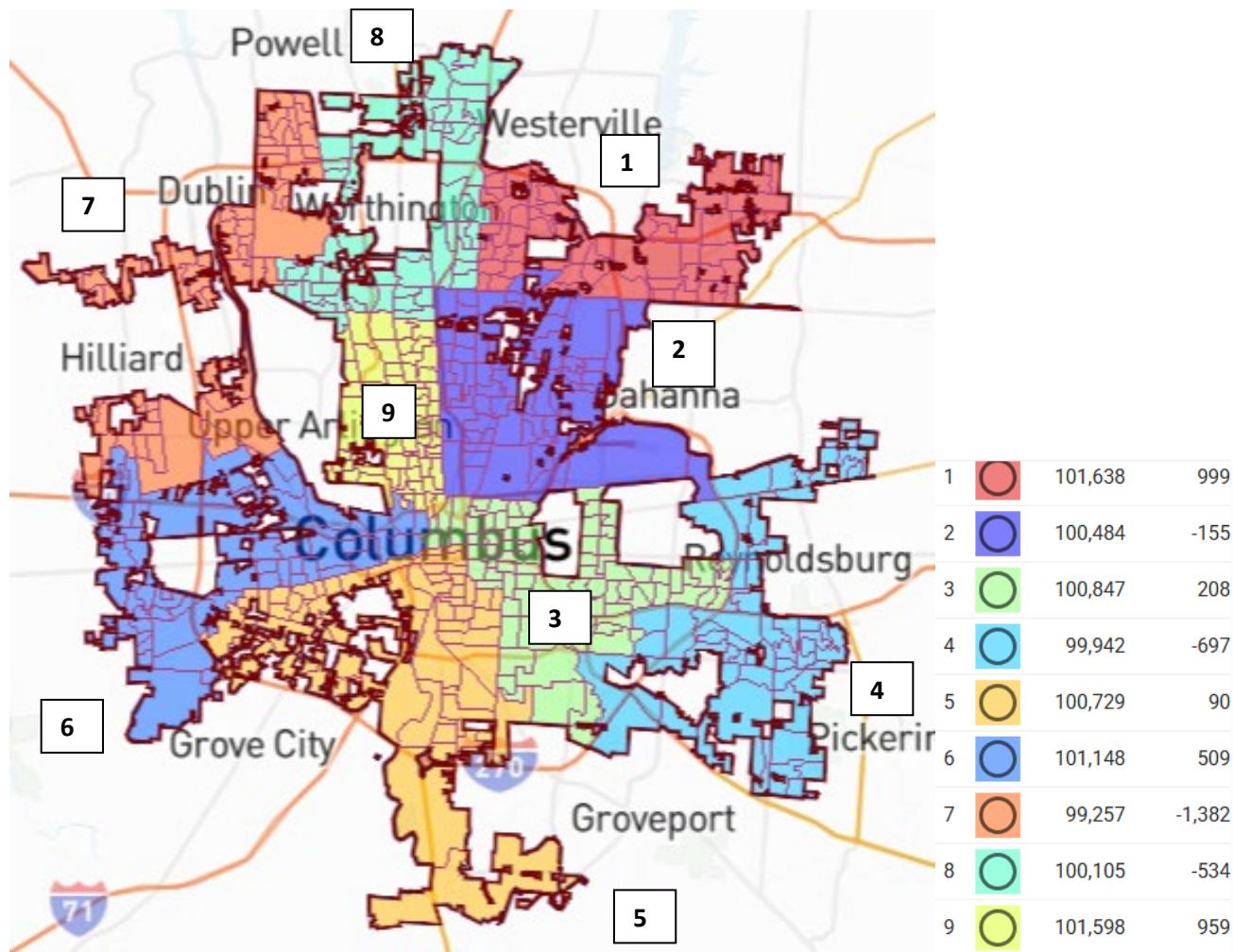
The districting plan so adopted shall be effective at the next succeeding primary and general municipal elections and shall remain in effect until a new districting plan has been approved as provided for herein. Upon council adoption of a districting plan, the districting commission shall be automatically dissolved. If territory is annexed into the city after the adoption of the districting plan, or if voting precinct boundaries change, council shall by ordinance, which shall be an emergency measure, amend the districting plan to attach the territory to the contiguous council district sharing the largest boundary with the territory. If territory is detached from the city after adoption of the districting plan, council shall by ordinance, which shall be an emergency measure, amend the districting plan to detach the territory from the council district within which it previously resided.

If a districting plan is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the prior district map shall remain in effect and the provisions of this charter shall be followed forthwith to develop a new districting plan.

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Sec. 7-4. – Initial Districting Plan.

The initial districting plan effective with the 2027 election is as follows, using 2020 census data values and precinct shapes as supported and further defined by corresponding additional data that may be filed with the City Clerk by this Committee of Petitioners. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-3, to the extent precinct or city boundaries have changed, the City Council shall revise and align this map by emergency ordinance pursuant to Section 7-2, prior to February 1, 2027.



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Sec. 41-3. - Nomination of municipal officers

(a) Candidates for the office of city council member and for mayor, city attorney, and auditor, shall be nominated by a nonpartisan primary election. The name of any elector of the city shall be printed upon the primary ballot if there is filed with the election authorities a valid nominating petition in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) The requirements for such petition form and circulation, and for the validation of such petition and the parts thereof and signatures thereon, shall be as provided for nonpartisan nominations in general laws of the state, unless otherwise provided for by this charter or ordinance of council.
- (2) For the offices of mayor, city attorney and city auditor such petition shall be signed by not less than one thousand registered electors of the city and such signatures shall be affixed thereon no more than one year prior to the date of filing; and, to ensure no unnecessary barriers restrict open competition and a strong voice for electors in each council district, for each council district such petition shall be signed by not less than ~~two hundred and~~ fifty registered electors of the district.
- (3) Such petitions shall be filed with the election authorities no later than four p.m., not less than ninety days previous to the day of such primary election.
- (4) Such petitions shall contain the names and addresses of five registered electors of the city of Columbus designated in advance by the candidate or candidates as a nominating committee.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, if no petition in accordance with the provisions of this section is filed for any of the offices to be voted on at the next regular municipal election, or if the number of persons filing such petitions does not exceed, as to any such office, the number of candidates which would be placed upon the ballot at the next regular municipal election, then no primary election should be held for the purpose of nominating candidates for such office to be voted upon at such next regular municipal election. The election officials whose duty it would have been to provide for and conduct the holding of such primary election, shall declare the results thereof and issue certificates of nomination to the persons entitled thereto if such primary election had been held, shall declare each of such persons filing petitions in accordance with the provisions of this section to be nominated and shall place their names on the ballot at the next regular municipal election in the same manner as though such primary election had been held and such persons had been nominated at such elections.

Sec. 41-5. - Election of municipal officers.

~~Every elector of the city may vote for any municipal office appearing on a primary, general, or special election ballot.~~ The two candidates for nomination to any municipal office, including a councilmember elected by district, who shall receive the greatest number of votes in a primary election shall be placed on the ballot at a regular municipal election, and the candidates at the regular municipal election who shall receive the highest number of votes for their respective offices at such regular municipal election, shall be declared elected. The ballot in each district shall contain both citywide races and the district council race for that respective district. A tie between candidates for any office shall be decided by lot under the direction of the election authorities, as provided by the general election laws of the state.

Sec. 46. - The recall.

Any elective officer provided for in this charter may be removed from office by recall petition. Such recall petition shall contain the signatures of not less than fifteen per cent of the number of electors who voted in the last preceding regular municipal election for mayor, except that a recall petition for a councilmember representing a district shall contain the signatures of electors from that district only, equaling not less than fifteen per cent of the number of electors from that district who voted in the last preceding regular municipal election for mayor. Except as herein otherwise provided, no petition for recall shall be filed within one-

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hundred-eighty days after a person takes office, or within ninety days preceding a regular municipal election for such office. No more than three elective officers may be subject to the recall at any election.

Sec. 46-3 - Placement of recall on the ballot.

The question of the removal of the elective officer shall be submitted to the electors of the city or, if the officer is a council member representing a district, the electors of the district the officer represents, at the next regular municipal election if one shall occur not less than sixty, nor more than one-hundred-twenty, days after the city clerk determines the sufficiency of the same. If no such election will be held within the period herein provided, the city clerk shall order and provide for a special election within such period. If more than three valid petitions have been found sufficient, the three petitions bearing the most valid signatures shall be submitted at such an election. After such election, the city clerk shall repeat the provisions herein until all such sufficient petitions have been submitted to the electors.

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We hereby designate the following petitioners as a committee to be regarded as filing this petition.

COMMITTEE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE PETITIONERS	ADDRESS
Denise Benning Adedugbe	155 Highview Blvd., #109, Columbus, OH 43207
Cecil Ahad	1767 Kenwick Rd, Columbus, OH 43209
Kujenga Ashe	1119 E. 16 th Ave., Columbus, OH 43211
Jonathan C. Beard	1815 Franklin Park South, Columbus, OH 43205
Tom Dillard	3226 McCutcheon Pl, Columbus, OH 43219
Calvin Hairston	377 Linwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43205
James Jones, Jr.	1750 Rebecca Street, Columbus, OH 43219
Asad Shabazz	3827 Battersea Drive, Groveport, OH 43125
E. Tyrone Thomas, Sr.	6467 Cranston Way, Dublin OH 43017

Signatures on this petition must be from only one county and must be written in ink.

	SIGNATURE	VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS STREET AND NUMBER	CITY	COUNTY	DATE OF SIGNING
1.	Legal Signature Printed Name				
2.	Legal Signature Printed Name				
3.	Legal Signature Printed Name				
4.	Legal Signature Printed Name				

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12.	Legal Signature				
	Printed Name				
13.	Legal Signature				
	Printed Name				

**To amend the City Charter to eliminate At-Large voting for City Council District
Elections and allow only voters of a designated district to vote for City Council
candidates of their District**

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14.	Legal Signature				
	Printed Name				
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16.	Legal Signature				
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30.	Legal Signature				
	Printed Name				
31.	Legal Signature				
	Printed Name				

To amend the City Charter to eliminate At-Large voting for City Council District Elections and allow only voters of a designated district to vote for City Council candidates of their District

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32.	Legal Signature				
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33.	Legal Signature				
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34.	Legal Signature				
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40.	Legal Signature				
	Printed Name				

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CIRCULATOR STATEMENT — Must be completed and signed by circulator.

I, _____, declare under penalty of election falsification that I
(Printed Name of Circulator)

reside at the address appearing below my signature; that I am the circulator of the foregoing petition containing _____ signatures; that I witnessed the affixing of every signature; that
(Number)

all signers were to the best of my knowledge and belief qualified to sign; and that every signature is to the best of my knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code. I am provided or promised moneys or things of value to circulate this petition by

(Name and Address of Employer)

(Signature of Circulator)

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION
FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A
FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**

(Permanent Residence Address)

(City or Village, State and Zip Code)