

R-1

AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF RENO CHARTER

Shall--the Reno City Charter be amended to provide that Council members receive an annual salary of \$34,500 and the Mayor receive an annual salary of \$39,600, with any subsequent increases to be in an amount equal to salary increases received by the Board of County Commissioners of Washoe County?

Yes
No

Yes
No

EXPLANATION TO QUESTION

The Reno City Charter currently provides that the salaries of the mayor and council members are set by the Reno City Council. Currently, the Mayor receives a salary of \$25,000 per year. Council members receive annual salaries of \$20,000. Washoe County Commissioners receive an annual base salary of \$39,600.

A "Yes" vote would amend the Reno City Charter to increase the salaries of the mayor and council members and provide that subsequent salary increases will be in an amount equal to increases in the base salaries paid to the Washoe County Commissioners.

A "No" vote would retain the Reno City Charter provision that allows the Reno City Council to set the salaries of the mayor and council members.

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE

The Mayor and City Council salaries should provide adequate compensation in order to attract qualified candidates for the office. At the present salary levels, qualified people may be discouraged from seeking election to these offices. A change in the City Charter provision would maintain reasonable comparability between Reno City Council salaries and Washoe County Commissioner salaries.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PASSAGE

The city has more pressing financial needs than increasing Mayor and City Council salaries. There does not appear to be a lack of people who are willing to run for these offices at the present salary levels. At the present time, the City Council has the authority to set the salaries of the Mayor and Council members and a charter change is not necessary.

relating to the recruitment, examination, and appointment process and employees on matters relating to dismissal, demotion, suspension and disciplinary actions, and act as an advisory body to the Chief Examiner and City Manager for the drafting and preparation of rules and regulations governing the administration of the Civil Service System, and to hold hearings on the same and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the adoption of such rules and regulations, and who will annually review the job performance of the Chief Examiner and make recommendations to the City Manager on the job performance of the Chief Examiner, as well as ratify the recommendation for the removal of the Chief Examiner by the City Manager.

EXPLANATION TO QUESTION

The Reno City Charter currently provides for Civil Service Commission that is responsible for the selection, appointment and promotion of employees in the Civil Service System. Additionally, The Civil Service Commission appoints a Chief Examiner who administers the Civil Service System which includes the selection, appointment and promotion of employees in the Civil Service System. The Civil Service Commission is a seven member board who hears employee disciplinary actions, promulgates rules and regulations for the Civil Service System, and conducts examinations for appointment.

A "Yes" vote would amend the Reno City Charter to make the City Manager responsible for the proper administration of the Civil Service System and who would appoint the Chief Examiner to develop and manage the Civil Service System. The Mayor with the approval of the City Council would appoint a seven member Civil Service Commission, with three of the members being nominated from a list of candidates provided by the collective bargaining units, who would hear employee disciplinary cases and complaints from individuals regarding selections, appointments and promotions. The Civil Service Commission would also draft, prepare and hold hearings on rules and regulations for the Civil Service System and make recommendations on such rules to the City Council regarding their adoption. The Civil Service Commission would also annually review the job performance of the Chief Examiner and make recommendations to the City Manager as well as ratify the removal of the Chief Examiner based on the recommendation of the City Manager.

A "No" vote would retain the Reno City Charter provisions that are in place.

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE

The proposed changes will give the City Manager the ability to better deploy the existing resources of the City to meet the demands for service that currently face the Civil Service System. There will also be more employee input into the membership of the Civil Service Commission giving the employees a stronger voice on the Commission. Additionally, the proposed change will result in the streamlining of processes and elimination of duplicate functions presently performed by both the Civil Service Commission and the Human Resources Department.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PASSAGE

The proposed changes will require the system to work in closer coordination with the City Manager which will make the system less independent. The proposal also has the effect of changing tradition, past practice and custom which from an organizational viewpoint may be difficult and unpleasant. The Civil Service Commission will no longer be able to change their rules and regulations without City Council approval which may add time to the process for adopting and modifying such rules and regulations.

R-2

AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF RENO CHARTER

Shall--the Reno City Charter be amended to provide that the City Manager shall be responsible for the proper administration of the Civil Service System and appoint a Chief Examiner who will develop and manage the program of the Civil Service System, and the Mayor with approval of the City Council will appoint seven members to the Civil Service Commission, three members will be selected from a list of nominees to be provided by the collective bargaining units for the City of Reno, who will serve as an appellate body in complaints and appeals from individuals on matters



R-3

CITY OF RENO FIRE PROTECTION QUESTION

Shall the City Council of the City of Reno be authorized to levy an ad valorem property tax at a rate (to be determined each year by the City Council) not to exceed 7.15 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, for the period commencing fiscal year 1998 to and including fiscal year 2027, for the purpose of improving fire protection in the City by hiring additional fire fighting personnel and providing facilities and equipment therefor and the cost of operation and maintenance thereof? (This question is estimated to raise between \$2,428,900 and \$7,574,900 annually.)

Yes

No

Explanation: A "yes" vote would permit the City of Reno to levy up to 7.15 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for 30 years to be used for fire protection purposes including, the acquisition, construction, improvement and equipment of fire protection facilities, the operation and maintenance of fire protection facilities, hiring additional firefighters, equipment and other expenses related to fire protection. This would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$25.03 per year.

A "no" vote would prevent the levy of such a tax at this time.

Argument For the Question: Fire protection is of critical importance to the residents of Reno. A new fire station has not been built in the City since 1985. Passage of the question will enable the City to build a new fire station to accommodate growth in the City, add additional needed fire fighters, equipment and other expenses necessary for the Reno Fire Department. This will provide for improved fire protection coverage in all areas of the City. It will also shorten response time and expand fire protection services to better protect the residents of the City and their property.

Argument Against the Question: Passage of the question will increase property taxes by 7.15 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, or \$25.03 per year for a \$100,000 home.

