

**PROPOSED ELECTION DATE CHANGE
CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

April 5, 2017

This document includes the proposed Takoma Park Charter amendments necessary to change the date of Takoma Park regular municipal elections to coincide with statewide general elections. It also extends the time for the Board of Elections to certify the results of elections from 24 hours to 48 hours to accommodate multiple voting sites and the anticipated increased voter turnout. It includes a proposed amendment to establish an earlier date for the nomination meeting (the Tuesday one week and one day after Labor Day, which is approximately eight weeks prior to the election) to allow for additional time for mailing of absentee ballots. Finally, it includes a proposed change of the day that newly elected Councilmembers and the Mayor take office since the regular City Council meeting night was changed from Monday to Wednesday.

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**ARTICLE III
THE COUNCIL**

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4 **Section 301 Number, Selection, Term, Wards**

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6 (a) All legislative powers of the City are vested in a body designated as the Council of the City
7 of Takoma Park, consisting of seven (7) members. Six (6) of these members are elected by ward
8 and are called Councilmembers, and one (1) is elected at large and is called the Mayor. The
9 regular term of the Councilmembers and the Mayor is two (2) years or until their successors
10 have been elected and duly sworn. The term of the Councilmembers and Mayor elected in the
11 2017 regular election is one (1) year. Newly elected Councilmembers and the Mayor take office
12 on the ~~second third Wednesday Monday~~ following their election. ~~Each Councilmember and the~~
13 ~~Mayor holding office at the time this Charter becomes effective will continue to hold office for~~
14 ~~the term for which the Councilmember or the Mayor was elected and until a successor takes~~
15 ~~office under the provisions of this Charter.~~

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20 **ARTICLE VI
REGISTRATION, NOMINATIONS, AND ELECTIONS**

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24 **Section 604 Nominations**

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26 (a) Nominations for Mayor and Councilmembers shall be made at a meeting of citizens called
27 by the City Clerk at the direction of the Council. Such meeting shall be held at a convenient
28 place within the City to be designated by the Council and notice thereof shall be given through
29 a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation within the City and/or by handbills generally
30 distributed and posted throughout the City. The meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday
31 evening after Labor Day in the year ~~five weeks prior to~~ the election, but if this date conflicts
32 with Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) or with Yom Kippur (Jewish Day of Atonement), then
33 the meeting shall be scheduled for the next weekday evening after the end of the second day of
34 Rosh Hashanah or after the end of Yom Kippur. The City Clerk shall preside at the meeting; a
35 qualified voter of the City shall be chosen as secretary of the meeting by the qualified voters of
36 the City present; the secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meeting and file
37 the same in the office of the City Clerk.

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41 | **Section 606 Election of Mayor and Councilmembers**

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43 | (a) On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2017, and in every even~~odd~~-
44 | numbered year thereafter, the qualified voters of the City shall elect its governing body of
45 | seven (7) members. Six (6) of these members are elected by ward and are called
46 | Councilmembers, and one (1) is elected at large and is called Mayor. Each of those elected shall
47 | reside in the City and be voters of the City, and in the case of the Councilmembers, be residents
48 | of the areas from which they are so elected consistent with the provisions of Section 304,
49 | Article III of this Charter.

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53 | **Section 613 Vote Count**

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55 | (a) Within forty-eight (48)~~twenty-four (24)~~ hours after the closing of the polls, the judges of
56 | the election shall canvass the voting machines or other voting system, and count any paper
57 | ballots, regular and absentee, to determine the vote cast for each candidate or any questions
58 | on the ballot.

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60 | (b) The judges of the election shall meet within two days~~the day~~ following the election, and
61 | shall therefore determine and declare what persons have been elected, issue certificates of
62 | election to such persons, and certify the results to the Council.