

ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Example Language

Montgomery County Charter

Sec. 108. Officers of the Council.

The Council shall elect, from among its members, a president of the Council, who shall preside over meetings of the Council. The Council may provide for the selection of such other officers or employees as it may deem desirable for the exercise of its powers.

Baltimore County Charter

Sec. 302. - Officers.

- (a) *Presiding officer.* The county council at its first regular session in each calendar year shall elect from its membership by a vote of the majority of the total number of council members established by this Charter a chairman who shall preside at all meetings. In the event of his absence or inability to act, the members present, by an order entered in the journal, shall select one of their number to act as chairman pro tem, who, while so acting, shall have all the authority of the chairman. On all questions before the county council, the chairman pro tem shall have and may exercise the vote to which he is entitled as a council member. (Bill No. 79, 1978, § 1) (Approved by voters Nov. 7, 1978; effective Dec. 8, 1978)
- (b) *Other officers and duties.* There shall be a secretary appointed by the county council, who shall keep minutes of its meetings, and such other officers of the county council as may be provided in its rules of procedure. All officers of the council shall have such other duties and functions in addition to those provided herein as may be specified in such rules.

REFERENDUM

Example Language

Montgomery County Charter

Sec. 112. Effective Date of Legislation.

All legislation, except expedited legislation, shall take effect ninety-one days after the date when it becomes law, unless a later effective date is prescribed in the legislation. Expedited legislation shall take effect on the date when it becomes law, unless a different effective date is prescribed in the legislation. (Election of 11-2-82; election of 11-5-02.)

Sec. 113. Publication of Legislation.

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Sec. 114. Referendum.

Any legislation enacted by the Council shall be submitted to a referendum of the voters upon petition of five percent of the registered voters of the County except legislation (1) appropriating money or imposing taxes, (2) prescribing Council districts, (3) authorizing the issuance of bonds or other financial obligations for a term of less than twelve months, and (4) authorizing obligations for public school sites, construction, remodeling, or public school buildings, whenever the total amount of such obligations authorized to be issued in any one year does not exceed one-fourth of one percent of the assessable base of the County. (Election of 11-7-78; election of 11-6-90; election of 11-4-14.)

Sec. 115. Referendum Procedure.

Any petition to refer legislation to the voters of the County shall be filed with the Board of Elections within ninety days after the date when the legislation becomes law, provided that fifty percent of the required signatures accompanying the petition are filed within seventy-five days after the date when the legislation becomes law. When a referendum petition that contains the required signatures has been filed, the legislation to be referred shall not take effect until thirty days after its approval by a majority of the registered voters voting thereon. Expedited legislation shall remain in effect from the date it becomes law notwithstanding the filing of a petition for referendum, but shall be repealed thirty days after its rejection by a majority of the registered voters voting thereon. (Election of 11-7-78; election of 11-5-02.)

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Example Language

City of Seattle, Washington

Subdivision D. COUNCIL REDISTRICTING:

- (1) By October 31, 2022, and of each tenth year thereafter, a five-member Districting Commission shall be appointed. The Mayor shall appoint two members, and by a two-thirds vote the City Council shall appoint two members. The fifth member shall be appointed by majority vote of the first four members. The Commission shall elect a chair from among its members. No person may serve on the Commission who is an elected official (except precinct committee officer), a registered lobbyist, a candidate for elective office, or a City employee.
- (2) The Districting Commission shall no later than two months after appointment, or November 30, whichever occurs first, appoint a districting master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a districting plan. If the Commission is unable to agree upon the appointment of a districting master by November 30, the Mayor shall appoint a districting master. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, and the Commission shall conduct public forums around the City before adopting any plan. At least one public forum shall be held in each existing District.
- (3) District boundaries shall be drawn to produce compact and contiguous districts that are not gerrymandered. The population of the largest district shall exceed the population of the smallest by no more than one percent. To the extent practical, district boundaries shall follow existing District boundaries, recognized waterways and geographic boundaries, and Seattle communities and neighborhoods. In drawing the plan, neither the Commission nor the districting master shall consider the residence of any person.
- (4) The districting master shall draw a districting plan for the City, and submit it to the districting Commission by March 15 of the year following their appointment. The Commission shall develop, approve by majority vote, and make public a draft districts proposal and then after public comment, approve by majority vote a final districts plan; and shall have all powers reasonably necessary to carry out its purpose, may employ experts, consultants and attorneys not employed by the city, and shall prepare financial statements and compose and turn over to the City Clerk an official record of all relevant information used. Upon adoption, the districting plan shall be filed with the City Clerk. The plan shall become effective upon filing and cannot be amended by the City Council except to correct data errors upon request by the districting Commission.
- (5) The City Council shall take all steps necessary to enable the Commission to function, including appropriations sufficient to provide a reasonable per diem for Commission members, compensation for staff and contractors, and reasonable expenses.

Charter Review Commission  
Legislative and Oversight Committee  
January 23, 2024  
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(Res. 31464, 2013.)