CITY ELECTION DATE CHARTER AMENDMENT THAT WILL INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION BY HOLDING THE CITY'S ELECTIONS IN CONJUCTION WITH STATEWIDE ELECTIONS.

Amend Articles III and IV of the Charter to increase participation in city elections by aligning city elections with statewide elections.

Art. III Sec. 1. City Elections.

Beginning in the year 2028, t~~T~~he general election in the city shall be held in conjunction with the statewide general election, and any primary election shall be held in conjunction with the statewide primary election ~~on the first Tuesday in May in every odd-numbered year~~. At all general, primary and special elections, the polls shall be kept open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. All elections shall be proclaimed by the mayor not less than ten (10) or more than forty (40) days prior to the date of holding such elections. Notice of elections, including elections to authorize the issuance of bonds, shall be published in the city not less than ten (10) days before the date of election. No other notice shall be required. In all other respects such elections shall be held and conducted, the vote canvassed and the result declared as provided by the general laws of the state.

Art. IV Sec. 1. Elective Officers.

At the general city election to be held in the year 2027, in the year ~~1979~~ 2028 in conjunction with the statewide general election, and every four years thereafter in conjunction with the statewide general election, there shall be elected the following officers: one mayor, to be elected at large for a term of four years, and four councilmen, one to be elected by the voters of the district from each of the four council districts hereinafter created for a term of four years. At the general city election to be held in conjunction with the statewide general election in the year 2030~~1981~~ and every four years thereafter, there shall be elected at large three councilmen for a term of four years. Officers elected at the general city elections held in 2025 and 2027 shall serve until his or her successor is elected and qualified in conformance with this section and Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-535. Elected terms of a length different than four-years due to this provision shall count as a four-year term for the purposes of term limits imposed by Article III § 4 of this Charter.

If any sentence, clause, or phrase of this section is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this section.

Art. IV Sec. 3. Primary Ballot.

The official ballot to be prepared and used at such primaries to be held in the year ~~1979~~ 2027, in the year 2028 in conjunction with the statewide primary election and every four years thereafter in conjunction with the statewide primary election shall be substantially in the following form, placing the names of all candidates upon the ticket without any party designation, circle or mark whatsoever, to wit:

"Candidates for nomination for the office of mayor.
Vote for only one.
(Names of candidates)

_____

Candidates for nomination for the office of district council member.
Vote for only one.
(Names of candidates)

_____"

The official ballot to be prepared and used at such primaries to be held in the year ~~1981~~ 2030 in conjunction with the statewide primary election and every four years thereafter shall be substantially in the following form, placing the names of all candidates upon the ticket without any party designation, circle or mark whatsoever, to wit:

"Candidates for nomination for the office of council member at large.
Vote for only three.
(Names of candidates)

_____"

In all other respects, the general character of the ballot to be used shall conform to existing state statutes. In printing, the names shall not be arranged alphabetically but shall be rotated according to the following plan: The form shall be set up by the printer with names in order in which they are placed upon the sample ballot prepared by the election commissioner. In printing the ballots for the various election districts, the positions of the names shall be changed in each office division for each election district. In making the change of position, the printer shall take the line of type containing the name at the head of each office division and place it at the bottom of that division shoving up the column so that the name that was second before the change shall be first after the change. After receiving such ballot from the election judges, endorsed by them as by law provided, the voter shall mark and cast such ballot. Any voter who shall declare

that he will require assistance in voting shall be aided in the manner provided by general law.

Art. IV Sec. 4. General Election.

The two candidates for mayor and the two candidates for district council member from each of the four districts receiving the highest number of votes at the primary to be held in the year 2027, in the year ~~1995~~ 2028 in conjunction with the statewide primary election, and every four years thereafter in conjunction with the statewide primary election shall be the candidates whose names shall be placed upon the official ballot for the following general city election. The six candidates for council member at large receiving the highest number of votes at the primary to be held in conjunction with the statewide primary election in the year ~~1997~~ 2030 and every four years thereafter shall be the candidates whose names shall be placed upon the official ballot for the following general city election.

If, after the primary election at which candidates for the office of mayor or council member shall be nominated, a vacancy upon the ballot for the office of mayor or council member is created by the death or declination of a nominated candidate or through any cause whatsoever, such vacancy may be filled by filing petitions with the election commissioner up to sixteen days prior to the general election. The petitions must show the name and address of the candidate and the office to be filled. The petitions for mayor must bear the signatures of 1,000 qualified electors of the city. The petitions for council member, in the case of candidates for at-large council member, must bear the signatures of 500 qualified electors of the city, and in the case of candidates for district council member, must bear the signatures of 500 qualified electors from the district from which such candidate seeks election. The names of all candidates for whom sufficient petitions are filed shall be placed upon the official ballot for the general city election.

Art. IV Sec. 5. Ballot.

At the general city election at which such candidates so nominated are to be elected, the ballots shall be prepared in substantially the same general form and the names rotated as hereinbefore provided for their nomination at the primary election; and the candidate for mayor receiving the highest number of votes shall be the mayor elected; the four candidates for the office of district councilman receiving the highest number of votes shall be the councilmen elected at the election held in the year ~~1979~~ 2027, in the year 2028 in conjunction with the statewide general election, and every four years thereafter in conjunction with the

statewide general election; and the three candidates for the office of councilman at large receiving the highest number of votes shall be the councilmen elected at the election held in the year ~~1981~~ 2030 in conjunction with the statewide general election and every four years thereafter in conjunction with the statewide general election.

CHARTER AMENDMENT -- AMEND ARTICLES III AND IV OF THE CHARTER TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN CITY ELECTIONS BY HOLDING CITY ELECTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH STATEWIDE ELECTIONS.

SHALL ARTICLES III AND IV OF THE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN CITY ELECTIONS BY ALIGNING CITY ELECTIONS WITH STATEWIDE ELECTIONS?

VOTE FOR or AGAINST

□ I vote FOR the proposed amendment.

□ I vote AGAINST the proposed amendment.