

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 2 – CONCERNS CHANGES TO THE  
COMMISSION ON MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL SALARIES

This amendment to section 2.18 would increase the number of Salary Review Commission members from five to seven and remove some outdated language. Salary increases for Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and Councilmembers would be capped at the lesser of an annual rate of 4% or the Consumer Price Index. Proposed salary increases higher than 4% or CPI-W would require a public vote. The Commission would also have the ability to decrease salaries or keep them at the current amount.

Should this amendment to the Charter be enacted?

Yes

No

**Full Text:**

**Section 2.18 Citizen's' Commission on Mayor/City Council Salaries:** There is hereby created the Vancouver Citizen's' Commission on Mayor/City Council Salaries to consist of ~~five~~ seven members appointed as provided herein and to set the salary and compensation of the ~~City~~ Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and City Councilmembers.

The Commission shall consist ~~for five~~ of seven members who shall be registered voters and residents of the City of Vancouver. No city officer, official, or employee or immediate family member of any ~~City~~ city officer, official or employee shall be eligible for membership on the commission. As used in this section, "immediate family member" means parents, spouse, siblings, children or dependent relative of the city officer, official or employee whether or not living in the household of the city officer, official or employee.

Commission members shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to approval of the City Council. ~~The first members shall be appointed by January 1, 1995. Each commission member shall be appointed for a single four-year term of office. except that the first five members appointed to the commission shall be appointed for different terms as follows:~~

- ~~a. Two members to serve for periods of four years;~~
- ~~b. Two members to serve for periods of three years; and~~
- ~~c. One member to serve for a period of two years.~~

No member shall be removed during his or her term of office unless for cause of incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office or for a disqualifying change of residence.

Upon a vacancy in any position on the commission a successor shall be selected and appointed to fill the unexpired term. The selection and appointment shall be concluded within 30 days of the date the position becomes vacant and shall be conducted in the same manner as for original appointments.

The commission authority and responsibility shall be as follows:

a. The commission shall study the relationship of salaries to the duties of the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and City Councilmembers and shall fix a salary for each such position by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the commission.

b. Except as provided in this section, the commission shall be solely responsible for its own organization, operation and action and shall enjoy the fullest cooperation of all city officers, officials, departments and employees.

c. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among their number every two years.

d. The commission may adopt a schedule of salary increases at the lesser of an annual rate of four (4) percent or the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the West region (CPI-W) as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the prior two years. If the Bureau of Labor Statistics discontinues publishing such index, the most similar index as determined by the city chief financial officer shall be applied. The commission may propose a schedule of salary increases of more than CPI-W or four (4) percent, provided that such schedule shall be submitted to the voters for approval. In the event the voters reject such greater increase, the increase within the foregoing limits shall go into effect. The commission may decrease salaries, provided that such decreases shall not be effective until the commencement of a new term of office. The commission may also choose not to adopt any salary change. The commission shall file its schedule of salary adjustments, if any, for the positions of Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Councilmember with the City Clerk by May 1 of the applicable year, so as to coincide with the City budget cycle.

~~d. The commission shall file its initial schedule of salaries for the positions of Mayor and City Councilmembers with the City Clerk no later than May 1, 1995, and shall thereafter file schedules by May 1st of the applicable later years so as to coincide with the City budget cycle.~~

e. Each such schedule shall be filed in ordinance form, shall be assigned a chapter number, shall be published in the same manner as a City ordinance, and shall become effective thirty days after

filing with the City Clerk. Such schedule shall be subject to referendum in the same manner as provided by Section 10.2 of the City Charter.

f. Signature of the chairperson of the commission shall be affixed on each schedule submitted to the City Clerk.

g. Prior to the filing of any salary schedule, the commission shall hold no fewer than two public hearings thereon within the four months immediately preceding the filing.

The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall receive reasonable reimbursement for their expenses in accordance with state law and city ordinance.

It shall be the duty of all city officers, officials and employees to aid in all proper ways of carrying out the provisions of this resolution. The commission shall have access to all city books, papers, documents and accounts applying or in any way concerning the subject matter of this resolution. Staff shall be assigned to the commission to provide support for its work.

This section shall supersede Section 2.03 and Section 2.04 of the City Charter but only insofar as they provide for the change of the salaries of the Councilmembers, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Mayor by ordinance.