

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. P-19-2 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 **CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

2 **ADOPTING A PROPOSITION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE**
3 **NOVEMBER 5, 2019 REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION PROPOSING TO AMEND**
4 **ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 1, 2, AND 3 OF THE ALBUQUERQUE CITY CHARTER**
5 **CONCERNING COUNCIL DISTRICTS**

6 **WHEREAS, the City Charter was amended in 1974 to establish nine City**
7 **Council Districts for the City; and**

8 **WHEREAS, when the current nine Council District structure was**
9 **established in 1974, the population of City was estimated at approximately**
10 **260,000; and**

11 **WHEREAS, the U.S. Census estimates that as of 2017 the City's population**
12 **within its municipal limits was 585,545, which represents a more than doubling**
13 **of population since the City's nine Council Districts were originally**
14 **established; and**

15 **WHEREAS, across nine U.S. cities of comparable population, the average**
16 **population per City Council representative is approximately 52,986 – that is, in**
17 **those cities there is approximately one city councilor for every 52,986 people;**
18 **and**

19 **WHEREAS, in order to achieve this average ratio of Council representatives**
20 **to population in Albuquerque, a total of eleven Council Districts would**
21 **currently be required ($585,545 \div 52,986 = 11.05$); and**

22 **WHEREAS, it appears that the City's political structure has not kept pace**
23 **with population growth which could have the negative impact of diluting**
24 **access of individuals to participate with their City government and engage**
25 **their representatives; and**

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1 WHEREAS, consideration of the question as to whether additional Council
2 Districts should be added to the City would be ideally timed at the 2019
3 election, which is immediately in advance of the 2020 census and the
4 associated decennial redistricting process required by the City Charter.
5 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
6 OF ALBUQUERQUE:

7 SECTION 1. The City Clerk shall place the summary, title, and text of the
8 following proposition on the ballot at the November 5, 2019 regular local
9 election, and City of Albuquerque voters shall be permitted to vote “for” or
10 “against”:

11 SUMMARY

12 Proposing to increase the number of City Council Districts from nine to
13 eleven.

14 PROPOSITION

15 Proposing to amend the City Charter of the City of Albuquerque by
16 amending Article IV, Sections 1, 2 and 3 as follows:

17 “Section 1. AUTHORITY AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL.

18 The legislative authority of the city shall be vested in a governing
19 body which shall constitute the legislative branch of the city and shall be
20 known as a Council, consisting of [~~nine~~ eleven] members . . .

21 Section 2. COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

22 (a) The total area of the city shall be divided into [~~nine~~ eleven]
23 Council Districts, numbered one to [~~nine~~ eleven] inclusive, and each district
24 shall elect one Councillor. . . .

25 Section 3. DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVISIONS.

26 (a) After each Federal Census, the Council shall appoint a
27 committee composed of an equal number of representatives from each
28 Council District, none of whom shall be elective city officers, to review and
29 make recommendations concerning the [~~nine~~ eleven] Council Districts. . . .”

30 SECTION 2. TIME OF FILING WITH THE CITY CLERK. The Director of City
31 Council Services, or designee, shall file this Charter amendment proposal with
32 the City Clerk within 90 days of the November 5, 2019 regular local election.

1 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, paragraph, word or
2 phrase of this proposition is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable
3 by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the
4 validity of the remaining provisions of this proposition. The Council hereby
5 declares that it would have passed this proposition and each section,
6 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
7 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

8 **SECTION 4. COORDINATION WITH BERNALILLO COUNTY.** The City Clerk
9 shall coordinate with the Bernalillo County Clerk to prepare and file any
10 necessary documents and agreements to facilitate the placement of this
11 proposed Charter amendment on the November 5, 2019 regular local election
12 ballot.

13 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This proposition is effective immediately.
14 The Charter Amendment described in Section 1 of this proposition shall take
15 effect immediately following the certification of the election if approved by the
16 voters.

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