



Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance
Thursday, October 15, 2020
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Kristen Conner, Mimi Davis, Christy Long, Amy Peacock (Chair)
Brandon Pierce, Cecy Ramirez, Janice Robinson, Eleanor Shell,
Sam Smith Jr., Peter Smolowitz, and Liz Winer

City Staff: Patrick Baker, City Attorney; Lauren Livingston, Strategy and
Budget; and Lauren Ruvalcaba, Strategy and Budget

Virtual Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order/ Agenda Overview Committee Chair

2. Review and Discussion of Committee Charges and Central Questions Committee
 - Updated policy guidelines and principles for City Council redistricting from the results of the 2020 Census
 - Review public input survey results
 - Discussion on final report and recommendations

2. Adjourn



**Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance
Virtual Meeting Agenda
Thursday, October 15, 2020
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, October 15, 2020 Agenda Packet
Table of Contents**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
CACG Draft Report (Tab 1)	1 – 6
CACG Survey Demographics (Tab 2)	7 – 9
2000 and 2010 Factors that may be Considered in Redistricting (Tab 3)	10 – 15
NCSL Redistricting Criteria Article (Tab 4)	16 – 17
2010 – 2018 Residential Unit Growth by Council District (Tab 5)	18
2018 – 2050 Projected Residential Unit Growth by Council District (Tab 6)	19
CMPD and CharMeck 311 Calls for Service by Council District (Tab 7)	20 – 21
CACG Public Input Survey Comments (Tab 8)	22 – 35

TAB 1



Summary on Advisory Committee on Governance

At the direction of Mayor Vi Lyles, the Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance (CACG) was established to review the current structure of the Charlotte City Council.

CACG is examining Charlotte's growth trends and current government structure, analyzing the government structure of peer cities, and developing recommendations to provide to City Council on which elected official structure of government would best meet the current needs of Charlotte's residents. Specifically, the committee is evaluating the following:

- The length of City Council terms of office and what term length would enable elected officials to best serve the city and its residents,
- Compensation for elected officials and what level of compensation would be adequate to encourage interested members of the public to run for public office,
- Which election method, either partisan or non-partisan, would best benefit the community, and
- What criteria for City Council Districts would ensure adequate representation of Charlotte's residents.



Council-Manager form of government since 1929

- ✓ Elected every 2 years, in odd-numbered years (2 year terms)
- ✓ Mayor & 4 Council members elected at-large by city-wide vote
- ✓ 7 Council members elected from districts by voters in those districts
- ✓ Concurrent partisan elections

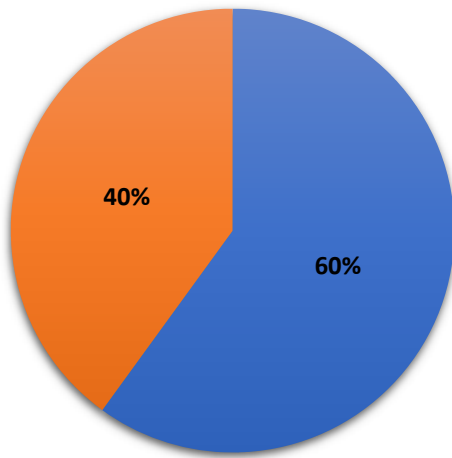




Survey Results

The following graphs illustrate results gathered from public input via an online survey available from September 21, 2020 – October 2, 2020.

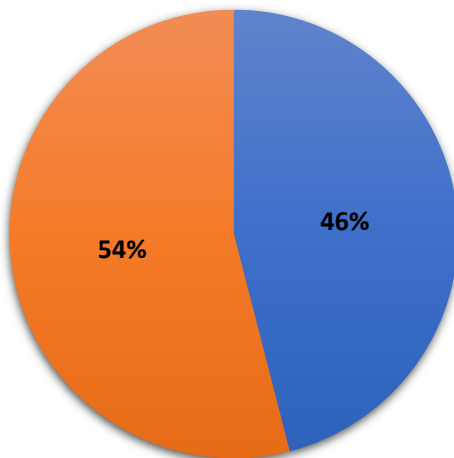
How long should a term of office be for the Mayor?



■ Four-years ■ Two-years *n*=625

Currently the Mayor holds a two-year term of office.

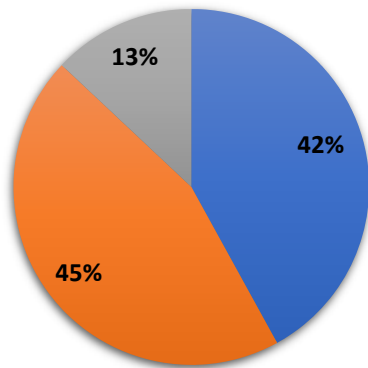
How long should a term of office be for City Council Members?



■ Four-years ■ Two-years *n*=619

Currently City Council members hold a two-year term of office.

Should Council Member salaries be increased, remain similar, or be less?



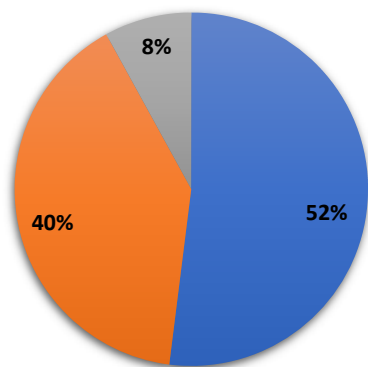
■ More ■ Similar ■ Less n=607

As part of the Council Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, City of Charlotte Council Member total annual compensation is \$33,915 which includes:

- Base Salary: \$21,015;
- Annual Expense Allowance: \$5,800;
- Annual Auto Allowance: \$4,000;
- Annual Technology Allowance: \$3,100.

An annual merit increase is also programmed as the budget permits.

Should the Mayor's salary be increased, remain similar, or be less?



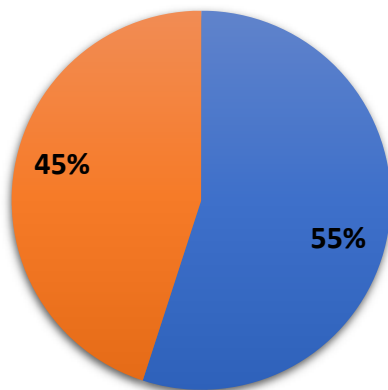
■ More ■ Similar ■ Less n=610

As part of the Council Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, City of Charlotte Mayor total annual compensation is \$45,096 which includes:

- Base Salary: \$27,196;
- Annual Expense Allowance: \$10,000;
- Annual Auto Allowance: \$4,800;
- Annual Technology Allowance: \$3,100.

An annual merit increase is also programmed as the budget permits.

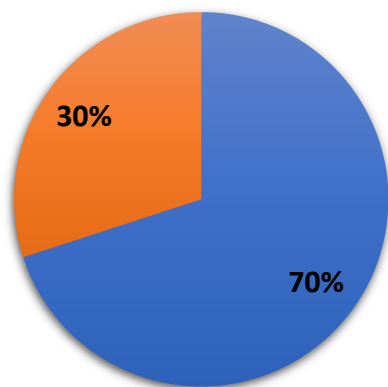
Should elections be Partisan or Nonpartisan?



■ Partisan ■ Nonpartisan n=605

In a partisan election, the voter will see the name of a party listed next to the name of the candidate on the ballot. For example, in this type of primary election, Republicans must vote in the Republican primary and Democrats must vote in the Democratic primary. Unaffiliated voters may choose the Democrat, Libertarian, Republican, or nonpartisan (if available) ballot in a primary election. In general elections, voters can vote for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. The nonpartisan election method is one in which the candidates do not have party affiliations listed on the ballot in either the primary or general election. Currently the City of Charlotte uses the partisan election process.

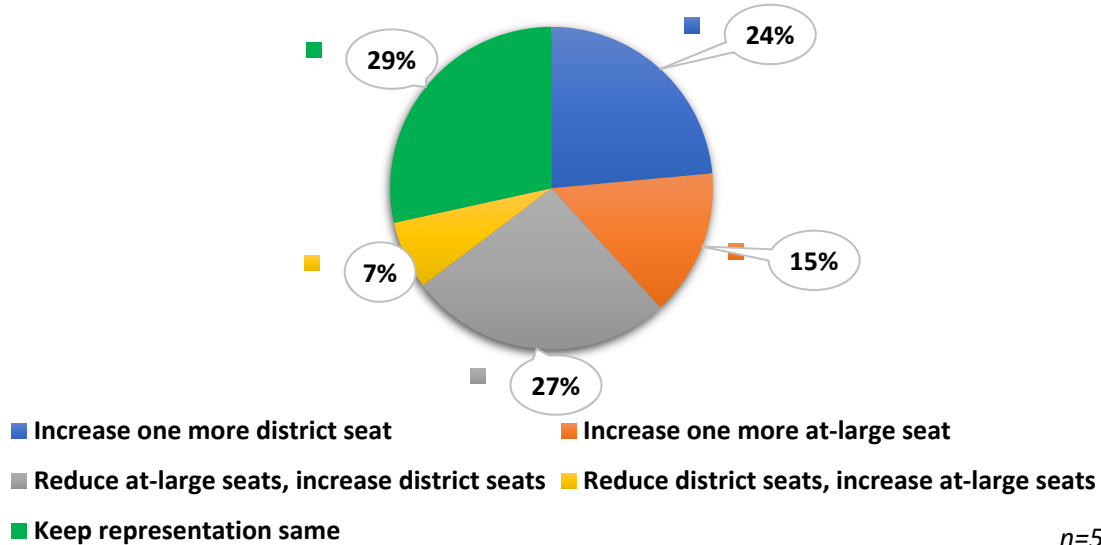
Should City Council and the Mayor have staggered elections?



■ Yes ■ No n=599

Staggered elections are elections where only some positions on the governing body are elected at the same time. For example, district representatives are up for election together in one election cycle and the Mayor and at-large representatives are up for election in the following election cycle.

Should Council Member representation stay the same?



The 2020 United States Census will help measure Charlotte's growth, and part of CAGC's charge is evaluating the make-up of Council Member representation for the City of Charlotte. Currently:

- 7/11 Council Members are elected at the district level
- 4/11 Council Members are elected at-large
- The Mayor makes for a total of 12.

The make-up of City Council is limited to 12 total members at most plus the Mayor for a total of 13 per state statute:

Part 4. Modification of Form of Government

North Carolina Statute § 160A-101. Optional forms.

Any city may change its name or alter its form of government by adopting any one or combination of the options prescribed by this section:

(5) Number of members of the council:

The council shall consist of any number of members not less than three nor more than 12.



Framework of Straw Votes

A draft framework of straw votes as reflected from CAGC's review of material and discussions can be found below.

Item	Result	Count
Four-year terms	passed	8-3
Two term limits contingent of four-year terms	passed	10-1
Referendum to move to four-year terms	passed	7-4
Move to nonpartisan election method	passed	6-5
Staggered terms contingent of four-year terms	passed	10-1
Should Charlotte Mayor and City Council receive an increase in compensation?	Yes	Unanimous
Should Charlotte Mayor and City Council salaries match Mecklenburg County BOCC compensation?	Yes	Unanimous

Next steps

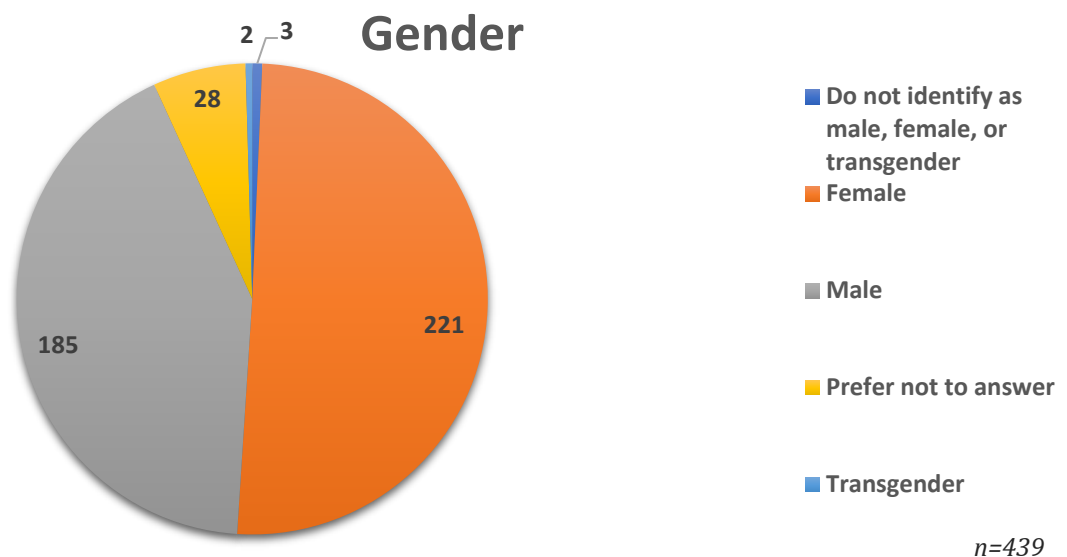
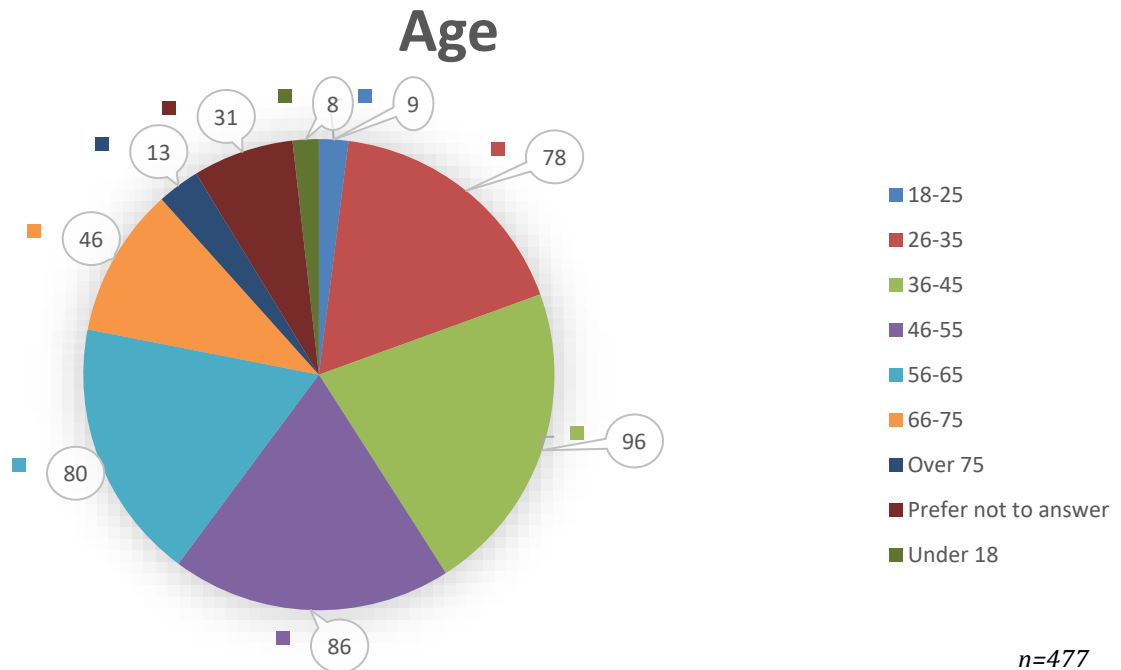
- District criteria evaluation
- Finalize framework of recommendations
 - Potentially submit final recommendation to Dana C. Fenton, City of Charlotte's Intergovernmental Relations Manager
 - Potentially submit final recommendation to Dr. Suzanne Leland
 - smleland@uncc.edu
 - Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration
 - Professor, Public Policy Doctoral Program
 - <https://publicpolicy.uncc.edu/directory/suzanne-leland>
 - Understand what CACG members want out of each recommendation
 - Understand the intent and expectation for each recommendation
 - (i.e. 4-year terms - more time to learn job; long range planning, etc.)

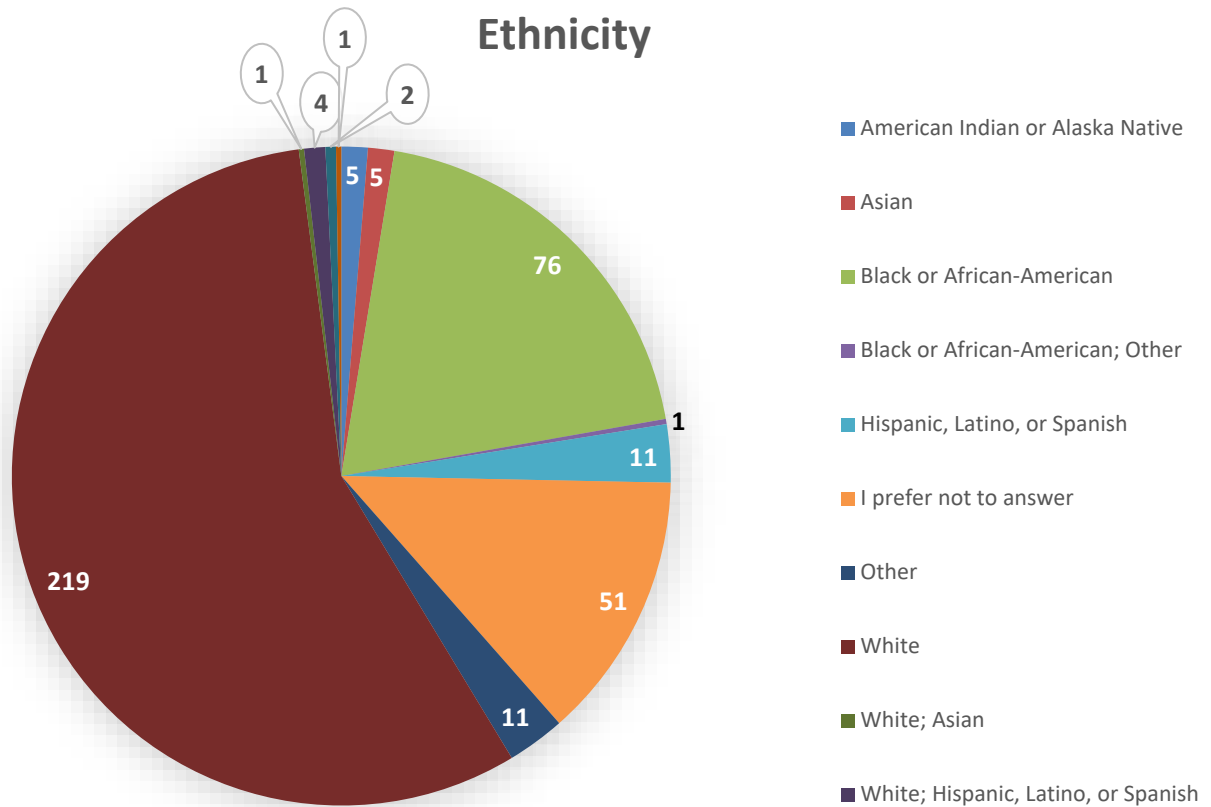


TAB 2

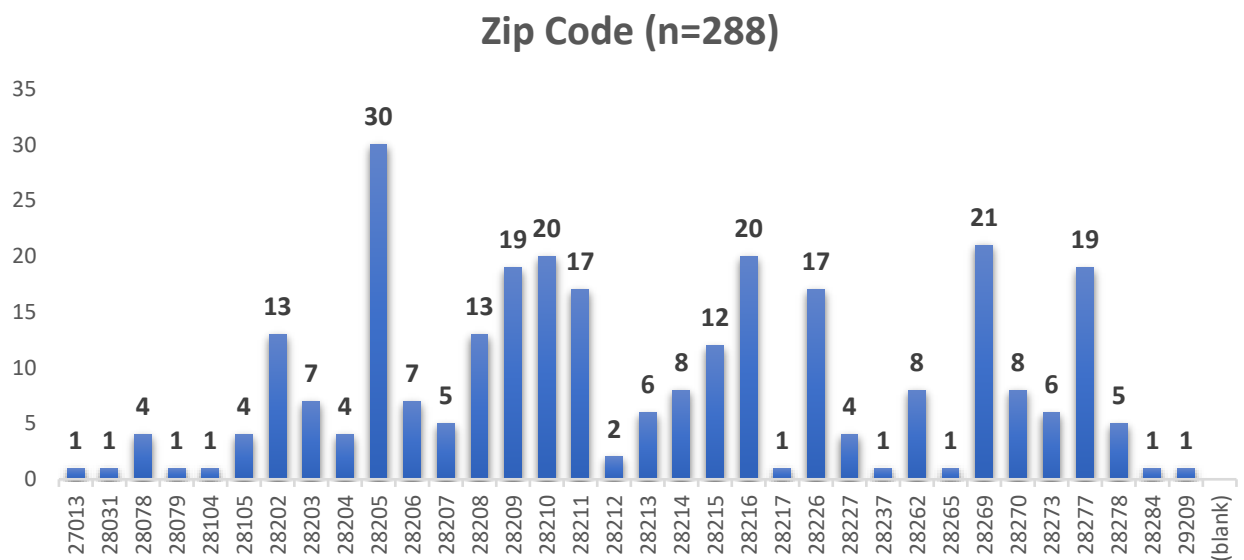
Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance Survey Demographics

The Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance distributed a survey from September 21, 2020 to October 2, 2020 (see Summary). The survey received a total of 689 responses. The below are demographic responses from the survey. These demographic responses were not required to be submitted in effort to encourage public input.





n=387



Affiliation

Charlotte Resident	194
Community Organizations within Charlotte	67
Neighborhood Associations within Charlotte	65
City of Charlotte Boards and Commissions	27
Other	15
Charlotte Development Community	14
City of Charlotte Employee	42
*261 respondents on affiliation	

TAB 3

2000

FACTORS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED IN RE-DISTRICTING (Approved March 15 2001)

IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST ORDER (HIGHEST)

- Districts must have substantially equal population (REQUIRED)
- Districts should be reasonably compact (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)
- District boundaries may follow neighborhood boundaries or the boundaries of areas containing residents sharing similar interests

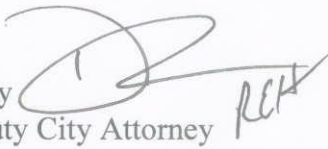
IMPORTANCE OF THE SECOND ORDER

- District boundaries may be drawn to create/maintain balance between major political parties
- District boundaries may follow precinct boundaries
- District boundaries may be drawn considering the race of district residents so long as race is not the predominant motivating factor
- District(s) most likely to be impacted by future annexations may be smaller to minimize impact of future annexations on future re-districting
- District boundaries may be drawn to avoid contests between incumbents

2010

CITY OF CHARLOTTE
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
Memorandum

TO: Susan Burgess, Re-Districting Committee Chairperson
Anthony Foxx
John Lassiter
Edwin Peacock

FROM: Mac McCarley, City Attorney 
Bob Hagemann, Senior Deputy City Attorney

DATE: April 15, 2009

RE: Briefing Paper on Re-Districting

The purpose of this Briefing Paper is to review the basic legal principles that control re-districting. The City must re-district as a result of the recent annexations approved by Council.

Attached is a map showing the current districts, the annexation areas and the location of each district Councilmember's residence. Also attached is a printout containing total population estimates and other statistical information, as well as voter registration figures. This information is based upon each annexation area being included in the district to which it is adjacent.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO RE-DISTRICT

Federal Law. The applicable federal law in this area is generally captured in the phrase, "one person/one vote." The right to vote under the United States Constitution is an important right. As a result, one of the responsibilities of any unit of government that elects representatives from districts is to insure that the population of those districts is substantially equal. Substantial equality at all times is not required. However, following each decennial census and any alterations in the boundaries of a government, the population of the districts must be reviewed to determine that substantial equality in district population is being maintained.

Generally, local governments are expected to establish districts with populations that are as equal in population as reasonably possible. While the courts have not established a definitive standard, a presumptive standard has been judicially approved. If the difference in population of the largest and smallest districts is within 10%, the courts have held that there is a presumption that the districts are valid. If the difference in district populations goes beyond 10%, the presumption of validity no longer holds. Districting plans that lack this presumption of validity are frequently held to be unconstitutional.

State Law. Pursuant to GS 160A-23, Council is authorized to revise electoral district boundaries only when the City's boundaries change through annexation or to "correct . . . population imbalances among the districts shown by a new federal census." Council is neither authorized nor required to change district boundaries in any other situation. In revising district boundaries, Council is authorized to "use data derived from the most recent federal census and shall not be required to use any other population estimates."

LEGAL STANDARDS FOR RE-DISTRICTING

District Population. As previously noted, the major standard to be satisfied in any revision of district boundaries is maintaining substantially equal population among the districts. Neither the largest nor the smallest district should vary by more than 5% from the ideal district size. The ideal district size is merely the total population of the City divided by 7, the number of City electoral districts. The combination of those allowable deviations above and below the ideal district size produces the short hand description of the standard as being an allowable 10% difference between the largest and smallest district.

Voting Rights Act. The State of North Carolina and many of its municipalities and counties are covered by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act that requires prior approval of the United States Department of Justice before a covered government can implement a re-districting plan. The City is not subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, but is subject to Section 2 of that Act. Under Section 2, re-districting cannot result in denying or abridging a citizen's voting rights on the basis of race or color. The Section is violated if members of a protected minority group are effectively denied an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice.

Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution. This constitutional provision prohibits governmental action that treats persons differently without a rational basis. However, when the federally protected rights that are implicated are deemed by the courts to be fundamental rights, the governmental action will be upheld only if there is a compelling governmental interest in taking the challenged action and the challenged action is the least intrusive way of achieving that governmental interest. This approach is generally called "strict scrutiny" by the courts and is also a standard of judicial review that is almost impossible to satisfy. Treating people differently on the basis of race implicates the fundamental right to be free of racial discrimination and triggers the "strict scrutiny" standard of judicial review for such treatment. Where race is the predominant factor in drawing the boundaries of electoral districts, courts apply the "strict scrutiny" standard. The "strict scrutiny" standard of review will not be triggered by racial considerations, if race is not the predominant factor and racial consideration is limited to being only one of several factors influencing re-districting.

Guiding Factors in Re-Districting. There are a variety of factors that can be used in revising district boundaries. The factors listed below are ones that have been considered in Charlotte in past re-districting efforts, but Council may use any reasonable factor. (A copy of the factors approved by Council for re-districting is attached.)

- Substantially equal population among districts
- Reasonably compact districts
- Following neighborhood boundaries (see discussion below)
- Political concerns (see discussion below)
- Following precinct boundaries
- Race of district residents (see discussion above)
- Making district(s) most likely to be impacted by future annexations smaller to minimize effect of future annexations on future re-districting
- Avoiding contests between incumbents

Political concerns can be a valid basis for revising district boundaries. Courts recognize that re-districting is an inherently political process. A 2004 decision by the US Supreme Court held that political gerrymandering—drawing district boundaries intentionally to favor one party or disadvantage another—is no longer a legal basis for challenging re-districting. (An earlier Supreme Court decision had held that under very limited circumstances political gerrymandering could be a basis for challenging a re-districting. That decision was expressly overturned and is no longer good law.)

Following neighborhood boundaries can be difficult where there is no clearly acknowledged definition of neighborhood boundaries. In addition, unless precinct boundaries follow accepted neighborhood boundaries, it can be difficult to apply both factors consistently.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Council has adopted Rules of Operation addressing various issues that can arise due to the sensitive nature of re-districting. Attached are copies of the Rules of Operation and the charge that were adopted by the Council for the 2003 re-districting process and for subsequent re-districtings.

CONCLUSION

The application of the legal requirements identified above to the districts, with the annexation areas included, means that the following conclusions must be addressed in any re-districting plan considered by the Committee:

- The ideal district size is 103,754
- Based on a maximum district size of 108,942, districts 2, 3, and 4 are too large
- Based on a minimum district size of 98,566, districts 1, 6, and 7 are too small

Revising district boundaries is potentially one of the more divisive and contentious matters to come before the Mayor and Council. If any Committee member, other Councilmember or the Mayor oppose a particular proposal and contend that the proposal is influenced too much—or too little—by race, such contentions may not only encourage litigation but may also create a basis for both sides of the litigation to inquire into the specific motives of the Mayor and each individual Council member. Regardless of the perceived sensitive nature of re-districting, there is no basis for this matter to be considered in a closed session. The need to weigh comments and arguments carefully is especially appropriate on this topic, not only during formal meetings but even during “private” discussions about re-districting.

We will be available to answer any questions that you may have. Mac may be contacted at 704-336-4112 or dmccarley@ci.charlotte.nc.us. Bob may be contacted at 704-336-2651 or rhagemann@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

Attachments

c: Mayor and Council
Curt Walton
Ron Kimble

TAB 4

Redistricting Criteria

4/23/2019



When redistricting, state legislatures or redistricting commissions are provided certain criteria with which to draw the lines. These criteria are intended to make the districts easy to identify and understand, and to ensure fairness and consistency.

All states must comply with the federal constitutional requirements related to population and anti-discrimination. For congressional redistricting, the Apportionment Clause of Article I, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution requires that all districts be as nearly equal in population as practicable, which essentially means exactly equal. For state legislative districts, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires that districts be substantially equal. Some say that 10 percent deviation in population from one district to the next is a safe standard. However, that has not proven to be a guaranteed protection from court scrutiny or revision. Several states have provided for their own deviation standard. For instance, Colorado prohibits districts from having a population deviation above 5 percent (Colo. Const. Art. V, § 46).

In addition to population equality, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits plans that intentionally or inadvertently discriminate on the basis of race, which could dilute the minority vote.

In addition to these mandatory standards set out by the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, states are allowed to adopt their own redistricting criteria, or principles, for drawing the plans. Principles, or criteria, may be found in state constitutions or statutes or be adopted by a legislature, chamber, or committee, or by a court that is called upon to draw a plan when the legislative process fails.

These **traditional districting principles (or criteria)** have been adopted by many states:

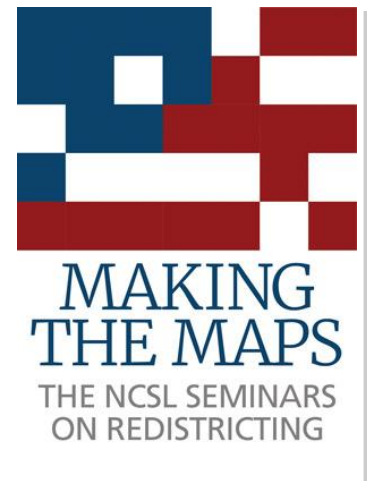
- **Compactness:** Having the minimum distance between all the parts of a constituency (a circle, square or a hexagon is the most compact district).
- **Contiguity:** All parts of a district being connected at some point with the rest of the district.
- **Preservation of counties and other political subdivisions:** This refers to not crossing county, city, or town, boundaries when drawing districts.
- **Preservation of communities of interest:** Geographical areas, such as neighborhoods of a city or regions of a state, where the residents have common political interests that do not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of a political subdivision, such as a city or county.
- **Preservation of cores of prior districts:** This refers to maintaining districts as previously drawn, to the extent possible. This leads to continuity of representation.
- **Avoiding pairing incumbents:** This refers to avoiding districts that would create contests between incumbents.

These **emerging criteria** have been considered and adopted in a few states since 2000:

- **Prohibition on favoring or disfavoring an incumbent, candidate or party.** The prohibition in a given state may be broader, covering any person or group, or it may be limited to intentionally or unduly favoring a person or group. Details on these prohibitions are included in the state descriptions below.
- **Prohibition on using partisan data:** Line drawers, whether they be commissioners (California and Montana), nonpartisan staff (Iowa), or legislators (Nebraska), are prohibited from using incumbent residences, election results, party registration, or other socio-economic data as an input when redrawing districts.
- **Competitiveness:** Districts having relatively even partisan balance, making competition between the two major parties more intense. This criterion typically seeks to avoid the creation of "safe" districts for a particular party. For instance, the Arizona constitution (cited below) states that "to the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals."

This **future criterion** has been adopted by Ohio for legislative districts beginning in 2021:

The Las Vegas Redistricting Seminar has been canceled. Register for the Making the Maps: Redistricting Webinar Series.



- **Proportionality:** The statewide proportion of districts whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party shall correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters.

For details on state-specific criteria relating to who may drawing plans, what data may be used and the review process, other than districting principles, see [this chart](#).

Another approach to Districting Principles for 2010 and beyond, please click [here](#).

The box allows you to conduct a full text search or type the state name.

Type state name

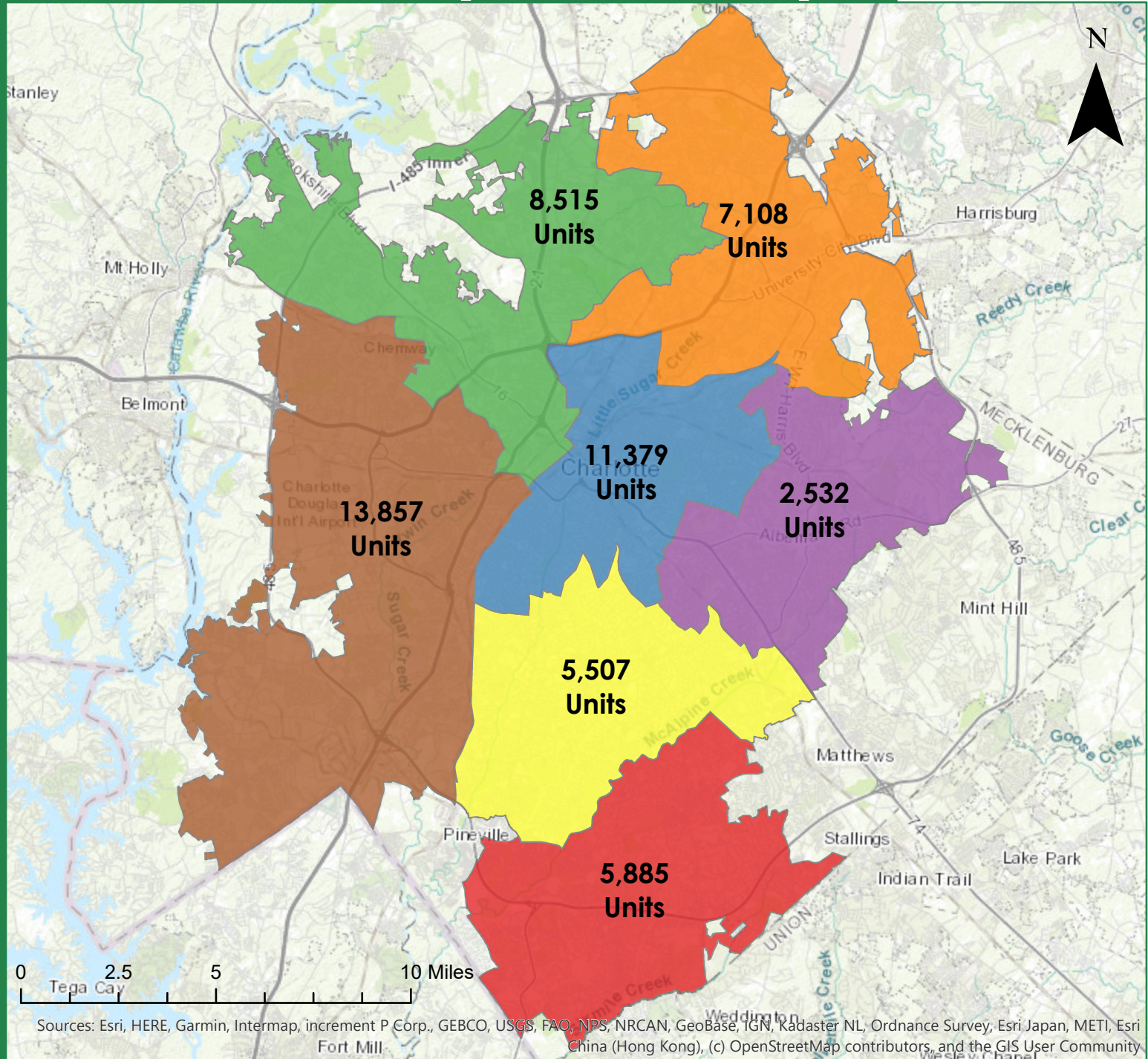
State Redistricting Criteria	
STATE	LEGISLATIVE OR CONGRESSIONAL
Alabama	Legislative
	Congressional
Alaska	Legislative
	Congressional
Arizona	Legislative
	Congressional
Arkansas	Legislative
	Congressional
California	Legislative
	Congressional
Colorado	Legislative
	Congressional
Connecticut	Legislative

TAB 5

Constructed Units per City Council District (2010 - 2018)

City of Charlotte
Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance
October 15, 2020 Agenda Packet

CITY OF CHARLOTTE
PLANNING, DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT



District Representative

- Larken Egleston - 1
- Malcolm Graham - 2
- Victoria Watlington - 3
- Renee Johnson - 4
- Matt Newton - 5
- Tariq Bokhari - 6
- Ed Driggs - 7

Produced by:
Planning, Design,
and Development

Source:
City of Charlotte
Planning Development

Date:
10/1/2020 1:35 PM

TAB 6

Residential Growth Projections by Charlotte City Council District

Council District	Housing Units in 2018	Housing Units in 2050	Housing Unit growth from 2018 to 2050	Housing Unit growth (%) from 2018 to 2050
1	55,803	95,543	39,740	71%
2	53,435	76,152	22,717	43%
3	61,271	107,463	46,192	75%
4	48,278	78,432	30,154	62%
5	45,675	67,878	22,203	49%
6	52,498	74,747	22,249	42%
7	48,316	59,092	10,776	22%

Data compiled by Charlotte Planning, Design & Development - 10/7/20

*Source - Growth projections based on Metrolina CommunityViz Model v. 2.0 (MCM v.2.0).
 MCM v.2.0 data is produced at the Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) geography.
 TAZ geographies do not align exactly with Charlotte City Council District boundaries.

TAB 7

CMPD Calls for Service Requiring a Patrol Response by City Council District:

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Calls for Service Requiring a Patrol Response			
COUNCIL DISTRICT	Jan- Dec 2018	Jan-Dec 2019	1st Half 2020
City Council District 1	81,608	81,833	35,196
City Council District 2	64,609	65,678	29,728
City Council District 3	86,733	88,067	39,778
City Council District 4	46,302	49,112	22,519
City Council District 5	46,223	47,208	21,730
City Council District 6	33,493	34,117	14,288
City Council District 7	20,827	20,403	8,405
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>379,795</i>	<i>386,418</i>	<i>171,644</i>
*Compiled by CMPD Crime Analysis Division, 10/8/2020			

CharMeck 311 Calls for Service by District:

CharMeck 311 Calls Calls resulting in Service Requests October 2019 – October 2020	
City Council District 1	53,666
City Council District 2	68,021
City Council District 3	61,967
City Council District 4	51,342
City Council District 5	54,395
City Council District 6	47,676
City Council District 7	46,650
*Compiled by 311; 10/8/2020 *This is not an accurate representation of total calls received	

TAB 8

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

As the city grows we need to add more districts & representatives.

Remove the auto allowance for Mayor and council - you can provide the same monies back into the salary; but the Mayor and councilmembers should not be incentivized to drive.

The at-large seats should be removed entirely and those four seats should instead become district seats. At-large council members don't have to do the type of constituency work that district members perform. I would recommend eliminating the at-large seats and making those seats District-based seats. In addition, each council member should be allowed to hire their own staff member to serve as their advisor, constituent services representative, etc., and those individuals should be at-will positions that only serve at the pleasure of that council member or until the council member's term expires. I also think council members should have term limits. If 2-year terms remain, they should have a term limit of six years or eight years; if we switch to four-year terms, then there should be a term limit of eight years. In addition, when a council position becomes vacant, the city council should not be allowed to appoint someone to fill the seat, rather a special election should be held so that voters can select who represents them.

I think the mayor should be a full time position and compensated accordingly. I like the idea of 4 year terms so that council can get more done without having to worry about campaigning every 2 years. Thanks for sending i would like to see a report card on all elected officials based on attendance and voting records

Compensation is critically important and should be increased to a living FT salary. The job is incredibly demanding and time consuming and yet the salary is less than what i made as a full time business professional in 1984. That results in only privileged folks with means to serve. And the campaigning for these offices is costly. Again, current compensation structure favors South Charlottean retirees or independently wealthy-- and we are missing out on a lot of representation on many levels. Staggering terms as well is a welcome and viable option and facilitates Council "refresh" and provides impetus for officials to work fervently and strategically. Having 4 year terms as well, I believe, is important as it is very difficult to get anything accomplished in 2 years. I say this from experience. For those who believe a 2 year term is beneficial -- have never served on Board with a limited term and bureaucracy that creates barriers.

The Mayor is the ambassador of our city and should be paid accordingly. The current pay rate for our mayor is awful. This position should command a higher salary by 2/3 if not doubled. Council members should have a longer term in order to be able to accomplish objectives. Term limits are a good idea, especially if they have not accomplished anything.

Base pay for Mayor should be at least \$75K & base pay for council should be at least \$60K.

The mayor's position should be full time.

Term Limits should be included in any updates, revisions and/or new Policies. Maximum of 2 Terms for all Council Seats (District or At Large) as well as Mayor. Just like Term Limits requirements on all City of Charlotte Advisory Boards.

Something not address in this survey or the data provided is the staff support made available to Council members. As Council members routinely receive more constituent requests than can possible to handled by one person who must also manage research on complex policy topics, Council and committee meetings, and other official concerns, Council members ought to be assigned at least one full-time staff member each to assist with constituent service, scheduling, and research.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

I think fewer at-large and more district seats would help improve diversity (racial, economic, & party affiliation) on the council. I also think city elections to be moved to even years alongside major elections to improve voter participation. I also feel Charlotte is at a size that the mayoral and council positions should effectively be made full-time positions.

Increasing the term length is would prohibit the city from holding councilmembers accountable. These positions are earned, and our term length must reflect that. If our councilmembers are concerned about being reelected every two years, they'll be more receptive to community feedback.

Having said that. Charlotte is too large to have our mayor and councilmembers be part-time positions. These should now be full-time posts, and the salaries should increase both to reflect that and also to reflect the serious issues large cities face: racism, police funding and police violence, pandemic response, and more have all come up this last year alone. We are a large city now. We need full-time representatives.

The Citizens Review Board should have more authority such as subpoena power.

This is a joke in many respects, I have sat in on the committee meetings. We need more district representation than at large but, most importantly, the salaries of voting members of council should be increased or eliminate subcommittee work that exceed the part time classification of the job

City council should be a FULL TIME position. This will allow us to attract higher quality candidates and hold them more accountable because they will be fully committed to the job.

You also didn't ask a question about term limits, but YES, there should be term limits for city council.

City council members need voice the opinion of their community. The city of charlotte always favors de elipses and say that they can build anything. If council members only take technical opinions into consideration they will always vote in favor of rezonings, if the hear their communities they will vote Against some rezonings and they will also request improvements on the design and functionality of some petitions.

Nonpartisan elections is the most critical to improving out government

More money for city council and paid stipend to board members over committees

District 2 is gerrymandered such that many voters are essentially disenfranchised.

New solutions can create new problems. There is no perfect system. There is some wisdom in smaller changes then large overhauls.

city council and mayor should be part time even in a city the size of charlotte

As our city grows so does our need for more concentrated representation. An at-large representative can not be expected to see and hear from all parts of our larger and growing community. We must do away with the at-large seats and add more concentrated district seats so our elected officials can truly wrap their hands around what's happen in their defined communities.

Also, I feel it's time to enact term limits for out local officials. Pay them a fair, full time wage, one that is equal to the mean area income but then limit the number of terms they are allowed to serve so we do not end up with career council-members that become ineffective but get reelected solely based off name recognition.

Salary should be enough that more than comfortable retirees could afford to serve.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

Failing to name the "Peer Cities" specifically is a great flaw in the information given above. Also, specifically stating what criteria was used to determine a "Peer City" is lacking in transparency. Many citizens of Charlotte have moved here to get away from some of these so called "Peer Cities" and may not want to repeat the policies of those cities. I believe the greatest flaw in our CCC is way too many At-Large seats (and I believe this to be the case for the Mecklenburg Cty Board as well). There is no need for this as there are currently 7 city districts so a tie vote is less likely to happen, so an at large vote is not needed. The mayor could basically be the AT LARGE voice of the CC. Also, in your information you did not indicate how the size of CCC to population compares to "peer cities" and "NC cities over 500,000". I believe we have one of the largest, if not the largest, number of members of CC in the state. I would have liked an option on the last survey question that stated "elect same number of district seats and fewer At-Large seats". Again, that many at-large seats provides no benefit to the citizens as each district has representation, is unnecessary for voting purposes and VERY costly. Also, you do not address term limits (how many terms someone can serve, not how long a term is) in your survey. Not as much an issue of CCC, it is a big issue on the Mecklenburg Cty Board of County Commissioners (MBCC). These positions should not be careers for individuals. We should constantly be encouraging and making room for the next group of individuals to become engaged in their community's governance, bring fresh ideas.

Again, biggest flaw of CCC is too many At-Large members. Doing simply district representations and Mayor would not even change the political make-up of either the CCC or MBCC. So I am not making this argument simply to change the political atmosphere of either body. I am making it because it makes the most sense from a benefit/cost stance. If you feel we need that many members on the CCC, they should be all district representatives and the mayor.

I believe in keeping most terms the same. The only exception should be mayor with 4 year term, as to allow for some continuity on council. Salary should also remain in line with current payments as to disincentivizes people from making their elected positions a career. Using this structure, I believe, would also make it easier for new ideas to cycle through the positions and make it easier for the citizens to hold elected officials accountable.

I would like to see us move to a stronger mayor system, with the mayor's office a full-time position, while keeping council a part-time position.

It is time to transition back to a Strong Mayor and Council with a City Administrator. This should be a 10 year goal with an immediate return to a Mayor and Council appointing the Police Chief and Fire Chief annually as was done prior to the 1972/73 Charter Change. Outside Chiefs have proved problematic to financial stewardship, citizen driven service delivery and employee morale.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

The current system of governance has enabled Charlotte to be run as an oligarchy of wealthy empowered people and has hampered the democratic voice of the people. With a part time mayor and council with short terms our elected officials are 1) unstable because they are constantly running for office, 2) don't have the ability to fully implement the changes the city may need, 3) thus are weak and ineffective and more likely to be vulnerable to the will of the elite than able to exercise authority premised on the people's will. Charlotte is too large a city for this inadequate system. Further, the city manager also has far too much power under this system. We don't elect this person and it is clear the the council exerts little power of accountability over the city manager. Such power as the city manager wields should be held by the mayor, an elected official, someone subject to the will of the people. We have long since outgrown the current system of governance and need a better system if we are to have the kind of responsive leadership necessary to govern one of our nation's leading cities.

It would have been helpful if compensation for mayors and council members of comparably sized cities had been shared for comparison.

I still don't know what the city does versus the county beyond zoning--and from where I sit the current crew is totally under the thumb of development for fundraising and the city's direction. Until this City Council actually does something besides keep developers happy, I see no need for change beyond increasing the Mayor's pay. We've already seen what low pay there gets us.

- The council and mayor should be full time positions at \$80k a year plus allowances. A pay raise will allow a diversity of people to run and hold office.
- They should all resign from any other jobs/ventures so as not to appear to have conflicts of interest. (Ethics is everything!)

I do think it is time for change. Most important is not partisan elections.
Second is longer terms

Hold the elections on even numbered years to increase turnout. Definitely think more, smaller districts and less at large seats is the way to go. That said, much more than 11 seats seems unwieldy.

District reps should live in their district but be voted on by all City residents.

3 years terms for city council should be considered. I believe 4 years is too long, but 2 years seems short.

City servants salaries should reflect the community they serve. Keeping are servants close to the average person in the city is essential for having them understand the community they serve. As it is, they are already overpaid for a part-time job. I believe their salaries should not be above 80% of the area median income, the same threshold their constituents face to qualify for the HouseCharlotte program.

City Council needs to spend less time worrying about how much they get paid and how long they are in power serving big businesses and developers and instead directly serve the people of Charlotte. Make meaningful steps toward fixing the affordable housing crisis and provide actual oversight to CMPD who gets 40% of the budget and then your citizens would have good reason to consider giving you a raise.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

The majority of peer cities have no at large seats. At large seats have been viewed as discriminatory in legal cases where a significant majority of any protected class exists. Furthermore, having more district representatives means such council members will have fewer precincts to serve giving them the ability to do so in a better way particularly as part time public servants. The City of Charlotte should fully eliminate at large seats like Austin did a few years ago and move to better and more diverse representation through districts only.

Fund the police. We need to protect the rights of all citizens!

Currently, there is too much partisanship among Council members and too many individual agendas. Some Council members deserve their salary; others are just taking up space and getting paid for it. Like national and NC politics, Council members are too often playing to a small base of their constituencies. Whatever happened to Council members or district representatives walking through their neighborhoods to meet, see and hear from the folks in their districts? We have lived in Charlotte for 14 years and have yet to ever see or hear from our Council member. I guess, because we are a different political party. Represent all or don't have the office.

I wish the Mayor was much more visible throughout the city and much more outspoken on the myriad of issues that are playing out in our city, our region and the state. Citizens should, of course, pay attention to what their elected officials are doing, but it also up to the officials to get out, be seen, speak up and be that "leader" that we expect them to be. Even bad media coverage is good coverage from the stand point of being vocal and having an opinion. Safety is not why we vote for politicians - that goes for the Mayor, Council, City Manager and department heads.

At large seats often skew partisan positions in the favor of certain areas. Equal representation should be the goal.

Our council is not fairly representative of the people and is too left leaning

If Charlotte continues on its current path

Residents will leave in droves to other counties or more likely South Carolina

I actually like 3 year staggered terms but that wasn't an option

Former elected official from NJ now living here in Charlotte.

For a cut of this size Charlotte elected officials are underpaid and overworked. This causes burnout and apathy and leads to increased corruption. We do need term limits if there are four year terms, two consecutive terms of service is enough. I voted less for Mayoral service since, while I think Mayor Lyle's is a fantastic human she has not demonstrated committed leadership against the RNC and the danger it brought to the city.

Move the CC/mayoral elections to the years when the presidential election is held to increase turnout. Fewer at-large, more district representation with smaller districts.

Unaffiliated Voters are allowed to vote in Democratic Primaries thus 81% of Charlotte Voters are eligible to vote in every single Democratic Primary. Republicans are less than 19% of the City Voter Registration. "Non-partisan" is just a way for Republican candidates to fool folks into voting for them. It's political welfare for the weakest. Out of touch party.

Commit to budget changes that reflect our values. Provide more for mental healthcare, housing and education and less to a militarized police force.

Maximum of 2 terms limits for City Council

<p>COMMENTS CACG Public Input Survey September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020</p>	
More representation is needed in our disenfranchised communities and areas within the county.	
The city council is unbalanced. To have one party wield so much power is begging for corruption and a myopic vision for our city. ALL residents deserve to have a voice...not just Democrats.	
Get rid of at- large positions entirely, and elect only district representatives.	
At large positions should be eliminated in their entirety. They serve as "bonus" seats to the majority party. This does nothing to represent the citizens of Charlotte effectively. It would be more effective to either eliminate the position or convert them to districts to better represent their constituency. This would also have the effect of making it possible to build coalitions across party lines to pass solutions that are good for the city as a whole.	
Consider ranked choice voting! It's been very successful in Maine and localities like Portland!	
Do not convert at large seats for district seats. At large are important to see city-wide issues	
Council and mayor should be more transparent and available for questions and ideas! More open meetings and really listen to what the citizens want for their neighborhoods! Stop paying developers to build unless stricter requirements are met- keep more trees, street lights in the new subdivisions, bigger lots and less crowding, no council meetings unless EVERYONE on the council can attend!	
The salaries should be tripled and all positions should be made full-time. 2 new full-time at large seats should be added.	
We should not have a full time mayor, but should continue with the current model, with staggered terms	
Council members are overworked by representing too many citizens. I would like to see smaller districts and more council members to share the workload while also allowing for more staffing to sit on more focused council level committee assignments by the mayor.	
It makes no sense to me that we have a separate county commission and city council. A feasibility study should be done to look at the pros and cons of one governing body for the county, including the city, and how it could be done, if determined to be feasible.	
We need term limits. No more than eight years in office	
Defund CMPD	
Council members should have dedicated staff independent of city staff for research and consultation.	
Compensation is a very difficult consideration. I am not interested in career politicians in local government. Yet to attract talented leaders, value for their leadership skills is an important skill. I compared the mayor's responsibilities to the county manager but do not think the mayor should earn the same rate of pay. City council members are important and more at large if it brings a balanced view to overall growth rather than the past focus on what is good just for my district. Best wishes to you all in making decisions that will benefit the majority.	
The officials attendance should be made public. Those who frequently miss meetings should be held accountable and a predetermined excuses could be allowed. If the official exceeds the number of excuses, his role should be released. (This is a policy found in many work forces) and as people who represent US, missing council meetings is evidence of apparent lack of interest in representation of my/our concerns.	
Peer review of council members should be considered along with random reviews by a represented district. Immediate termination should take place upon any council member who has committed a felony and/or DUI charges.	
Visible participation in their district celebrations, meetings, etc. should be a positive sign and this should be	
There should be a limit on the amount of terms served and it should be 2 terms for the mayor and city council members. The compensation is more than fair for a part time position.	

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

term limits are necessary to have new ideas to come forward instead of the same people being in there year end and year out and they bring nothing new or anything changes. as far as council member getting paid that should not be. this is a part time position and an elected office position which you do not have to run for. I feel this is a service to the community and its your choice to do it at no charge to the community of charlotte

I am concerned that there was not a single question about TERM LIMITS. Regardless of the length of terms, it should be capped at 6-8 years total as a council member and 8 as a mayor. Unrestrained term limits lead to the problems that we are seeing on a national scale with congress, and it should be even shorter term limits locally. The city is rapidly changing and we shouldn't have the same people on Council for multiple decades. New ideas, new innovations, and fresh perspectives are key to keeping a growing city attractive, safe, and economically viable for ALL of its citizens.

As a Charlotte native (all but five of my 52 years), AND someone who's been BOTH a Democrat for the first half of my adulthood... and has been voting conservative/Republican since Bill Clinton's second term, AND someone who has VOTED in nearly every primary and regular election since I turned 18... AND, I was the Republican Judge of my precinct for two years (until a Mecklenburg Board of Elections rep called me out by name when I documented/reported two years of wrong-doing in my precinct that I'd witnessed first hand)... SO, with all this said, I pay close attention to the local, state, and federal government (what "elected officials" do before they are elected, what they say they'll do, and what they ACTUALLY do once elected)... my biggest concerns are the following: 1) The City Council, currently, IS NOT following their own oath they take of UPHOLDING THE US Constitution by supporting law enforcement/law & order... ESPECIALLY they are ignoring the FIRST AMENDMENT to the US Constitution... Like Braxton Winston protesting/defunding/dismantling CMPD WHEN HE'S A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER?!? (He's not the only one, just most visible;) 2) Mayor and City Council members are spending ENTIRELY TOO MUCH time/energy on getting elected/re-elected, as opposed to ACTUALLY doing their job/that they took an oath to do... They are spending too much time slinging mud at each other, being hypocrites, and wasting taxpayer dollars on pet projects. (For example, IF affordable housing and being fiscally conservative so "Charlotte is a City FOR ALL" are actually important, WHY are there plans to do MORE EXPENSIVE pet projects in Center City that serve those who have plenty of money already?) And, 3) WE NEED TERM LIMITS. The original design of government was THAT ELECTED OFFICIALS WERE TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES, NOT BE LIFETIME, TAX DOLLARS SUCKING, PERSONAL PROJECT FUNDING OFFICE HOLDERS FOR YEARS :) :)

I would support four-year terms for mayor and city council if there were term limits (two terms). I also believe every voter in the city should have, at a minimum, the ability to vote for a majority of the seats on the council. So, expansion of the council should either be additional seats at large vs in district. However, if district seat expansion occurs (or for that matter this should happen now), district primaries would continue to be held whereby only people in the district vote, but in the general election, all city voters can vote for at large seats as well as in all the district races. This will make all seats competitive throughout the city and likely would result in more competitive primaries in districts as well.

Although this survey did not ask questions about term limits, I believe term limits should be implemented whether the terms remain at two years or are changed to four years. Obviously, the limit would be different based on the # of years in each term. Thank you for conducting this survey to obtain input from city residents.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

1. Make it a requirement that members of the City Council who represent a district actually live in that district for the entire length of the term. 2. When considering zoning and re-zoning permits, take into consideration how it will affect schools, traffic, utilities, etc. rather than tax dollars and pleasing developers. 3. Either do away with long range planning or stick to the recommendations, especially if a consulting firm was hired to make those recommendations.

This is a strong manager government and we need to remember that...

I question whether the city really needs 11 members on the council. It seems like longer terms would allow the council to spend more time on governing and less on fundraising and campaigning. At that point, it might make more sense to have fewer, but more efficient, seats.

I believe that our city/county/state/national representatives should educate our citizenry better on the election process and how to research those persons they are to vote upon. I also believe there isn't nearly enough available information on our representatives... everyone should be easily able to review what each person has done during their terms of office.

Include more members of Council who are NOT representatives of the Democrat party. Make it more EQUAL. This city and council screams for equality all the time! Let's have some more conservative members of council

I love this city. I've lived here since 2006. I feel like we're on a great track. Focus on fair representation and investment in public transport - light rail - and we'll continue to be on that great track!

Give the members dedicated staff like most peer cities.

Eliminate the auto allowance for council members Totally restructure the police department including hiring/termination, severe strict disciplinary actions, mental health evaluations, education requirements, psychology etc

Please stop Jerry meandering

Tired of Partisan bickering. My hope is that Charlotte can get past political Bickering and the members and mayor can serve the city to make Charlotte an example of a successful, diverse, inclusive, economically strong place to be. Crime homelessness and trash needs to be addressed and our current methods are not working. I like these feedback sessions so maybe we can come up with an out of the box solution other cities will want to copy.

Look at where the city is (in growth and responsibility) and m give the Mayor a salary that supports the expectations of the job. Frankly, it's embarrassing. This is not a part-time job. The role has outgrown tradition, and should be respected for what it entails no matter who occupies the position.

We considered these options at least twice in the 12 years I served on Council. Like others, I worked 60-80 hours a week on that job. It is very hard to address long term issues, running 2 years apart and having to raise funds. Long range planning and action suffer.

I feel the wage increase might actually make it a viable option for some to lead that may not be financially well enough off, so we can truly grow.

I believe that as our city continues to grow, Charlotte needs to consider making the Mayor's and City Council members' positions full time positions.

I actually prefer 3 year terms. If we move to 4 year years there should be term limits.

I was shocked 14 years ago to learn that the role of Charlotte Mayor was a "part time job". It needs to be full time and paid as such. The terms should be longer than 2 years for mayor and city council. It wasn't a question, but the city council member jobs should be paid higher as well.

Regardless of party affiliation, we need elected officials that truly represent the communities of Charlotte. Create a structure similar to the House of Representatives; keep the same map, adjust the number of reps based on the population of the district.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

It is not really accurate to say raises are based on merit. Currently they are tied to across the board budget increases. If some council members are doing a mediocre job and some are doing great job, they all get the same compensation. So increases are not merit based.

How can citizens get more engaged ?

Every district should have its own representation. I thing wrong with adding more at large seats to increase the members of the council either.

The city should be divided up into more districts and not at large.

Stop council members and the mayor from accepting funds from developers. If they do please Make sure that they check each project and how it will affect the community. Make sure that studies are done to take education, medical ease, food deserts, transportation. On all aspects that makes a Community successful.

Stop council members and the mayor from accepting funds from developers. If they do please Make sure that they check each project and how it will affect the community. Make sure that studies are done to take education, medical ease, food deserts, transportation. On all aspects that makes a community successful.

Would really be beneficial to see the costs involved in having staggard elections. I understand the point of staggering terms so that all positions are not vacant at any one time but there's not a large amount of transition IF the seat were to change since the Manager is in control of the Government Operation as a whole. Costs is my point and there's a lot of waste in spending that could be curtailed and thus is just one piece.

Low-income and underserved areas are under-represented on the council because the Census fails to get an accurate count in these districts. What about adding or including volunteer advisors from these communities to report to the council as a whole?

Recommend eliminating at-large City Council seats and retain the seven district seats. Only the mayor should be elected at-large.

City Council and Mayor should be full-time positions, not part time. The part time nature of the offices make it so that lower income individuals or people with time consuming day jobs cannot run for local office.

I am against any defending of the police...

I feel everyone's voice should be heard... but i also feel the law has been ignored...permits are required to protest...yet they have not been during this unfortunate time in our history... all laws by all should be upheld at all times...

while I do feel we have systemic issues... i believe this rings true on all sides of the issues

Most people will probably not want to increase salaries but the way I see it, regular people can't work their regular job and a city leadership job at the same time. This means only rich or self employed people tend to end up in local government. If representatives are paid more, then more average people can run and represent the people.

I appreciate this opportunity to share my views.

Any change to the composition of city government should endeavor to elect members of both parties as the best representation is balanced representation. Having one party government is generally ineffective and fails to consider alternative policy options.

Stop building large housing properties. The roads need to be up graded

The thought of longer term gives Council to work harder at their goal. That would give Mayor & Council a term of commitment as well.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

How does anyone lead anything part time? While I'm not one for giving government officials more money, I think the compensation has to match the demands of the job. I don't want a part time leader. I want someone fully committed and free from distractions if they are going to lead this city.

So unhappy and sad in Charlotte right now. This is my home city and I would move if I could. Protesters are anything but peaceful. Sick of it! Do something! Ready to vote everybody out!

City council positions should be full time positions. This allows members to focus solely on their jobs and take care of themselves and his/her family.

I also think we should be considering switching positions from part-time to full-time.

City council and mayor should certainly be paid more. The demand on council members is very high for a part time role. While I don't support moving to "full time" designation, a significant pay increase is warranted. Staggered terms with mayor and at large members on same ballot while district members on a separate election cycle. This way there is never such huge shifts to the city council board (like 2017) while still giving voters ability to hold their electeds accountable at ballot box on a frequent basis.

More Has Never Been Better , When Your City Suffers You Suffer, Not Be Rewarded.

I don't approve of the way our City is being run.

The current city government is doing a terrible job.

running less and paying more may attract better talent.

I have worked under both a City Manager form of government and a strong mayor form of government. I believe that a strong mayor form is superior.

The role of the city manager should be strengthened, giving that position more latitude and authority, including modifying the budget and streamlining procurement practices to accomplishing policy directives of the Council.

I would also suggest that each Council member be assigned a full-time assistant to help with their duties and constituent services. For a city as large as ours, we ask far too much of our part-time council members, and for too little compensation.

I believe the Mayor and City Council should be full time positions, and I am dismayed that there was no such question for full-time on this survey. The salary and perk level would be about double what it is now. Isn't this common for peer cities of equal size and complexity ?

Republicans have been rejected soundly by the Voters of Charlotte and this is just a way to forced their rejected views and values by cloaking their candidates in darkness.

Disband CMPD and reallocate the funding to counselors and other social services for needy.

Council members should represent all, and not just their race. Council members who speak out against another race and or CMPD should be removed. Members should work to bring the community together, not apart

Thank You for keeping our Queen City Beautiful. As we grow, let's work on bettering our public education by hiring more diverse teachers and making second languages more inclusive in our school curriculum. Lets also give more attention, priority and funding to schools in lower income regions across our Queen City. Thank You!!

Please cut the grass on the freeway and clean the trash up.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

If the Mayor and council positions are to be short term positions and rotate frequently, the salaries and length should not increase. If we are going to have lifetime politicians, they should have higher salaries and longer terms.

I'm very concerned about the fact that there are so many ethics complaints against city council members related to developer campaign contributions and rezonings. In my own experience related to a neighborhood rezoning, it was very clear that councilmember support was strongly related to campaign contributions. We need more transparency and accountability. It's sad to see that a councilmember is willing to sell their Rezoning vote for a couple hundred dollars to approve multi million dollar projects. The rezoning process in particular needs to be revamped, members should recuse themselves from voting on rezonings submitted by people that contributed to their campaigns.

We also need better visibility into the ethics complaint review process. Complaints are not publicly posted and need to be requested by individuals. And it makes no sense that the city council members can make changes to their own ethics code, this should be managed by a citizen led committee (non-partisan and not directly appointed by elected officials).

I feel that the community should VOTE on positions such as the City Manager, County Manager, City Attorney, County Attorney, Tax Office, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Land & Development, Planning Director. Finance, Budget Director, Housing & Neighborhood Services, City Clerk; All Leadership, Director, & Department Heads positions should be decided by the citizens. This rules out Nepotism, favoritism, and corruption. I feel that all spending large or small should be available for citizens to view online like it used to be. We voted these people in the office and once they got in there they forgot about the Citizens. They make decisions on what THEY want especially when it comes to development. They get kickbacks from Developers and get friends and family jobs. We need a process documented for citizens to Impeach the local governing officers. It used to be if you wanted to speak at a zoning meeting or any other meeting, you just stand in the line and wait your turn to speak. Now they want you to register to speak so they can document your name and if you speak against them, you are attacked and harassed in your personal life. They want to know who you are ahead of time and make notes while your speaking. They make decisions about our neighborhoods and they don't live in them. They make sure their neighborhoods are exempt. This is FRAUD!

Councilmembers and the mayor should be full time positions to avoid conflict of interest and ethics violations.

Break up Char Meck Schools into 4-5 self governed districts with their own school boards, budgets, and

In addition to the responses above, I believe Charlotte should transition to a strong mayor-council government -- which gives more executive authority to the Mayor of Charlotte while maintaining a City Manager that answers to the Mayor. This will consequently warrant the Mayor's role to a full time status providing executive oversight while the City Manager serves as chief administrator that manages City departments under the purview of the Mayor.

Columbus, Ohio, the 14th largest city in the US, uses a strong-mayor system with the mayor serving as both chief executive and chief administrator. San Francisco, CA, the 16th largest city, uses a strong-mayor system where the mayor is chief executive and a mayor-nominated, Council-confirmed city administrator is the chief administrator. We can blend these systems of government to create one that allows for the elected to focus on serving the needs of the community while in office rather than simply strategizing for the next election.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

Two year terms seem too short to be effective. Overall representation seems good and I believe the council-manager form of government is far better, more effective, and less prone to corruption and cronyism than a strong mayor led form of government.

I do think council needs to be less involved in operational decision and more involved in policy and future planning. We have a large, well paid, professional group of city employees that need to be able to manage efficient and effective operations guided by council by policy and process vs. political pressure. Non-Partisan leadership could help ease those political pressures.

Mayor should be a full time job. Stagger elections so they don't all get voted out at the same time. Longer terms. So they aren't just running for reelection their entire term

This survey seems quite biased and misleading in terms of ulterior motives.

I only saw this survey on LinkedIn. Why did you not publicize this better (e.g. with an insert in water bills for example)? I doubt your response rate is going to allow you to draw meaningful conclusions about what people say. And it's not really clear to me why you are wanting to make changes.

This is the second time I've taken this survey. Why would City leaders distribute a survey with such important topics in such an informal and insecure way? No doubt the responses collected will be used without those caveats which is shameful. I hope that's not the case. People are paying attention.

The mayor needs to be a full time job (and compensated as such). I would consider the same for the city council, if it makes sense for cities similar to ours (i.e. Nashville) who are experiencing similar growth surges. Staggered elections make sense, so that the government can maintain continuity.

Who's in council posts or sits in the mayors chair does not matter if they won't hold the city manager accountable. I want to see more thorough scrutiny from the council, on the manager. And I want to see the city manager more open to talking to press.

Many of the larger cities in NC have nonpartisan elections. We should too.

It is understood in Charlotte that district reps votes on zoning projects have an effective veto on things in their district. That has to change.

There should also be campaign finance restrictions on council members receiving donations from developers within 6 months (before and after) one of their projects is up for a vote.

Any changes implemented should be done in two years not immediately.

I think 4 year terms should only occur if done in conjunction with non-partisan elections.

thanks for looking into these improvements!

While it is a good thing for council members to represent districts of the city, I find district seat holders too often overlook "the greater good". That is why I would like more at large members.

When I say staggered, I mean District should be elected every 2 years and mayor and at large every 4 years.

If done right these are now full time jobs and should be compensated accordingly. In favor of term limits for all positions.

I opted for more at-large seats hoping that at-large individuals will have a broader view of the whole city enabling them to see the needs everywhere, conditions of schools, parks and recreation areas, street repairs and sidewalk construction, so that the city responds to needs, not just to the residents of areas with money. And would someone check the restroom at the CVS on N. Sharon Amity. It is always the nastiest one anywhere, dirty and without supplies.

COMMENTS
CACG Public Input Survey
September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020

Most important - keep short (2 year) terms! Enables change of representation without disruption. A council member who wants to do something else can usually ride out the remainder of a term, allowing the voters to select the replacement rather than appointment by an elected official. In the last 7 years we have seen a healthy amount of turnover with new representation and ideas. Second-most important - reduce the proportion of at-large seats, which will always be from one party, and bakes in the marginalization of the minority party.

I would not like to see the number of "at Large" seats reduced. I would think an increase in the number of district representatives and/ or at large council members would need to reflect how much growth Charlotte has experienced and the patterns of the growth throughout the city. I definately think the Mayor and the at large Council Members should have 4 year terms and should be compensated much more than at present for their full tiime employment.

All elected offices should have term limits.

I think the national election cycle that are currently in the midst of shows how party affiliations do not benefit the constituents and the election process overall. Focusing on the qualifications and what the candidates can and will do for the city, in the case, should be what matter to voters, irrespective of party affiliation.

I appreciate receiving this survey and being able to provide input. I encourage you to send out more surveys to gather citizen opinions. By providing my opinion it makes me feel like a part of the leadership team, since I should be a part of because I am a tax paying citizen.

Given Charlotte's growth and dominance in Mecklenburg County, it's really time for the consolidation of City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County government. The only thing preventing it is the egos of the elected officials whose positions would be at risk in such a consolidation. Consolidation failed by one vote in the 90s. It's time to try again.

We need more consolidated government

Will the results be shared with the public?

I think we should have educated the public on if the council has assistants or not. And if they need to each have a personal assistant. Also maybe could've included increase ranges. Also I think we could've asked is a mayoral form of government something we ought to investigate. Anyways rhanK you all for puttingbthisbtogether and Inwish I would've known sooner.

As Chair of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party, I am opposed to changing the election of Charlotte City Council Representatives from a partisan race to a non-partisan race. Doing so would force the Democratic Party to endorse candidates in order to be competitive with the Republican Party's candidates. Most likely, the Republican Party would endorse a slate of candidates as well. When a political party's executive committee endorses a slate of candidate in lieu of a partisan primary, the slate of endorsed candidates may not reflect the views of the rank and file voters who have been deprived of their ability to choose their party's standard bearer through the primary process. Party activists (myself included) tend to have views further to the left or the right of rank and file voters within the party. I would much prefer to stick to the rule of having the county party stay away from candidate endorsements. The voters should decide. However, as the UNC School of Government study included with the proposal makes clear, non-partisan contests tend to have lower voter turnout thus favoring wealthier candidates and the Republican party. The Democratic Party would have no choice but to protect its interests by endorsing a slate of candidates through its Executive Committee if Charlotte City Council contests were to change from partisan to non-partisan races.

From this day forward every mayor and council member main objective should be to establish a city that is diverse and embraces everyone and does not tolerate police violence against unarmed citizens.

<p>COMMENTS CACG Public Input Survey September 21, 2020 - October 2, 2020</p>	
Do you need more code enforcer's.	
I think 2 year terms are too short to be effective. The officials spend their 2nd year fundraising and campaigning!	
Thank you for requesting feedback	
Mayor and Council Salary should represent a full-time, well paid professional position (\$95k+). The current salary level prohibits many citizens with dependents from any opportunity to run for office.	
I live in Fort Mill, but I work in and want to be active in the Charlotte metro area community	
If a council member is arrested they should be put on administrative leave and not be able to vote until they are investigated by a convening authority. The council and mayor need to be more transparent and be a leader in the communities they serve and not bow to the few who are trying to push a false agenda.	
I would like to see longer terms for the elected officials , so they can spend less time campaigning and more time on City business.	
City and County councils should merge.	
I like the idea of 3 yr. term limits better than the 4 or 2 choices.	
What are we going to do about the litter that comes with a growing city.	
Please also consider making the Mayor and Council full-time jobs.	
Council/mayoral elections should be held in EVEN numbered years to coincide with federal elections. This will help to increase voter participation.	
IF the subcommittee schedule and the regular meeting schedule do not reflect full time employment then I will be shocked. City council deserves full time pay for full time work.	
We need more at-large seats to represent the entire Charlotte community versus just Council members looking out for their own district. This will promote unity.	