New York City Ballot Proposals for November 2019 Elections

On November 5, 2019, New York City voters will have the opportunity to amend the city’s charter or constitution by voting on ballot proposals described below.

The creation of the 15-member New York City Charter Commission of 2019 was approved by the New York City Council on April 11, 2018, and signed into law by the mayor on April 30, 2018. https://www.charter2019.nyc/background

The commission was tasked with reviewing the New York City Charter and recommending changes to the governance document by soliciting public input through hearings in all five boroughs. The commission issued a report outlining its findings and recommendations. The proposals will be put forth to voters at the November 2019 election. The proposals are grouped into five ballot questions for voters to consider. Link

1. **Elections** – Question 1. This proposal would:
   a. Allow voters the choice of ranking up to five candidates in primary and special elections for Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council beginning in January 2021;
   b. Eliminate the separate run-off primary elections for Mayor, Public Advocate, and Comptroller;
   c. Increase the time period (80 days) between the occurrence of a vacancy in an elected City office and when a special election must be held to fill that vacancy; and,
   d. Adjust the timeline of the process for drawing City Council district boundaries so that it is completed before City Council candidates start gathering petition signatures to appear on the ballot for the next primary elections.

2. **Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)** – Question 2. This proposal would:
   a. Increase the size of the CCRB from 13 to 15 members by adding one member appointed by the Public Advocate and adding one member jointly appointed by the Mayor and Speaker of the city Council who would serve as chair, and to provide that the city Council directly appoint its CCRB members rather than designate them for the Mayor’s consideration and appointment;
   b. Require the CCRB’s annual personnel budget be high enough to fund a CCRB employee headcount equal to 0.65% of the Police Department’s uniformed officer headcount;
   c. Require the Police Commissioner to provide the CCRB with a written explanation when he/she intends to depart or has departed from discipline recommended by the CCRB or by the Police Department Deputy;
   d. Allow the CCRB to investigate the truthfulness of any material statement that is made within the course of the CCRB’s investigation or resolution of
a complaint by a police officer who is the subject of that complaint, and recommend discipline against the police officer where appropriate; and,
e. Allow CCRB members, by a majority vote, to delegate the board’s power to issue and seek enforcement of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of records for its investigations to the CCRB Executive Director.

3. **Ethics and Government** – Question 3. This proposal would:
   a. Prohibit City elected officials and senior appointed officials from appearing before the agency they served in for two years after they leave City service (currently one year);
   b. Change the membership of the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) by replacing two of the five members currently appointed by the Mayor with one member appointed by the Comptroller and one member appointed by the Public Advocate;
   c. Prohibit members of the COIB from participating in campaigns for local elected office, and reduce the maximum amount of money that members can contribute in each election cycle to the amounts that candidates can receive from those doing business with the City;
   d. Require the citywide director of the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise program report directly to the Mayor; and,
   e. Require the City’s Corporation Counsel, currently appointed by the Mayor, to be approved by the City Council.

4. **City Budget** – Question 4. This proposal would:
   a. Allow the City to use a revenue stabilization fund – also known as a rainy day fund – to save money in future years;
   b. Set minimum budgets for the Public Advocate and Borough Presidents;
   c. Require the Mayor to submit a non-property tax revenue estimate to the City Council by April 26 rather than June 5; and,
   d. Require the Mayor, when making changes to the City’s financial plan that results in a budget modification, to submit the proposed modification within 30 days to the City Council.

5. **Land Use** – Question 5. This proposal would:
   a. Require the Department of City Planning (DCP) to transmit a detailed project summary to the affected Borough President, Borough Board, and Community Board at least 30 days before the application is certified for Uniform Land Use public review, and to post that summary on its website; and,
   b. Provide Community Boards with additional time to review ULURP applications certified for public review (from 60 to either 75 or 90 days, depending on the matter).