



Fall 2009

November 3, 2009 Election What's on the Ballot?

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, voters will go to the polls to elect THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS, FOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, as well as vote on eleven amendment proposals to the Farmington City Charter.

Qualified Candidates for City Council

Vote for three; two highest vote totals will receive four-year terms; third highest vote total will receive a two-year term

Tom Buck	23848 Whittaker Farmington, MI 48335
Michael J. Wiggins	31528 Marblehead Farmington, MI 48336
David Wright	33740 Oakland Street Farmington, MI 48335

Qualified Candidates for Farmington Public School District Board of Education

Vote for not more than two – six year term

Sheilah P. Clay	24376 Millcreek Ct. Farmington Hills, MI 48336
Gary D. Sharp	37744 Cherry Hill Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Vote for not more than two – four year term

Priscilla Brouillette	26105 Hidden Valley Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48331
Cindy E. Flynn	25689 Blue Creek Ct. Farmington Hills, MI 48336
Umesh Gandhi	28159 Secluded Lane Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Dennis Homant	29187 Birchcrest Way Farmington Hills, MI 48331
Frank L. Reid	21690 Beauford Lane Northville, MI 48167
Steven Stimson	28287 Montpelier Court Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Proposed Charter Amendments

Please see pages 2-3 of this newsletter for proposed charter amendments.

Absent Voter Ballot Applications

You are eligible for an absentee ballot if you meet any of the following criteria:

- Are 60 years of age or older
- Are physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another
- Are appointed as a precinct worker in a precinct other than your own
- Expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered on election day
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion
- Cannot attend the polls because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

Applications can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office or downloaded from the City's website at www.ci.farmington.mi.us.

City of Farmington Proposed Charter Amendments November 2009 Ballot

In 2005, the Farmington City Council appointed a Charter Review Committee to study the City Charter and make recommendations to the Council to bring the Charter into compliance with state law, promote “best practices” in city government and administration and change and/or delete antiquated practices and/or language. The Council reviews proposed amendments recommended by the Committee and, if it agrees with the proposals, approves the language of the amendments and authorizes their placement on the ballot for voter approval. Over the past few years, Farmington voters have approved a number of amendments to the City Charter.

Council recently approved placing eleven proposed amendments on the November 2009 ballot for voter approval. The purpose and effect of the eleven amendments are summarized below:

Charter Amendment Proposal 1

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 3.4, be restated to acknowledge that, due to changes in Michigan election law, regular city elections are now held in November of each odd-numbered year, rather than in April of each odd-numbered year?

This amendment removes outdated charter language requiring a city election in April, which is no longer a date authorized under state law for holding city elections. City elections are now held in November.

Charter Amendment Proposal 2

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 3.5, relating to City elective offices and terms of office, be amended to state that the term of office for a Councilmember elected in November 2012 or thereafter commences at 12:00 p.m. noon on the Monday following the regular City election, instead of 8:00 p.m. as now provided?

This amendment allows for newly elected councilpersons to take office at 12:00 p.m. on the Monday following the election and be eligible to participate in council meetings held prior to 8:00 p.m. Meetings of Council are often held before 8:00 pm.

Charter Amendment Proposal 3

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Sections 3.9, be amended to delete the current time period for filing nomination petitions for City office with the Clerk and to provide instead that such petitions shall be filed between the 90th day before the date of the election and the 75th day before the date of the election?

This amendment changes the date for filing nomination petitions for the office of city council allowing adequate time for election preparations.

Charter Amendment Proposal 4

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Sections 3.9 relating to the filing of nomination petitions, 3.11 relating to the filing of supplementary or replacement petitions, and 3.16 relating to the filing of a petition or counter-petition for recount, be changed to state that the time for filing such petitions is 4:00 p.m., instead of 5:00 p.m.?

This amendment brings the time for filing nomination petitions in line with state law for other petition filings. This amendment allows for petition filing during normal City business hours.

Charter Amendment Proposal 5

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 3.15, relating to canvassing votes, be amended by deleting its current language, which is no longer enforceable under state law, and replacing it with a statement acknowledging current state law that the City Council shall either appoint a 4-member board of canvassers with all of the powers granted to and duties required by law to be performed under state law, or may alternatively contract with the county for the county board of canvassers to perform all the functions of the city board of canvassers in accordance with state law?

This amendment eliminates outdated and unenforceable charter language and updates the charter consistent with state law, allowing Council to either appoint or contract a Board of Canvassers.

Charter Amendment Proposal 6

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 5.1, be amended to allow an elected City Councilmember to be appointed to an independent board or commission, if otherwise eligible, during that officer's term of office, while retaining the prohibition against being employed by the City during the term of office for which he or she was elected and for two years thereafter?

Currently councilmembers serve on various boards and commissions such as the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission, etc. without compensation. This amendment clarifies that a councilmember may serve on an independent board or commission during their term of office, but retains the provision that a councilmember may not be employed by the City during their term of office or for two (2) years thereafter.

Charter Amendment Proposal 7

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 5.4, relating to filling vacancies on the City Council be amended to provide that the appointment of a person to serve on Council shall be by a majority of the serving members of the Council, to provide that the appointment process will be established by the Council, and to provide that, if Council does not agree on an appointee, or if there are three or more vacancies on the Council, an election to fill the vacancy or vacancies will be called for the next available special or general election, instead of within 60 days?

This amendment requires a majority vote from serving councilmembers to fill a council vacancy. It designates an appointment process will be established by Council; and a special election, if needed, must be held on the next available date authorized under state law.

Charter Amendment Proposal 8

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 9.4, be amended to state that the thirty-first day of December is "tax day" as established by applicable state law, and to delete the current reference to January 1 as "tax day"?

Tax day is the day on which the taxable status of persons and property is established. This amendment eliminates outdated charter language and aligns the charter with current state law which establishes December 31 as tax day statewide.

Charter Amendment Proposal 9

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 9.7, be amended to allow the convening of the first session of the Board of Review "after" the Tuesday following the second Monday in March, and to allow the convening of the second session "on or before" the Tuesday following the fourth Monday in March, rather than requiring convening only "on" those dates?

The independent Board of Review hears tax assessment appeals. This amendment provides the Board of Review leeway in setting the dates in March to hear tax assessment appeals.

Charter Amendment Proposal 10

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 9.16, relating to collection fees for unpaid taxes, be amended to reduce the collection fee on unpaid taxes from four (4) percent to one (1) percent? Note: This amendment will not take effect unless Proposal 11 is also approved.

Charter Amendment Proposal 11

Shall the Farmington City Charter, Section 9.16, relating to collection fees for unpaid taxes, be amended to add a penalty provision of one (1) percent interest per month on unpaid taxes for taxes paid after August 31? Note: This amendment will not take effect unless Proposal 10 is also approved.

City taxes are payable without penalty from July 1 through August 31. Each year, on September 1st a 4% penalty is added. If both Charter Amendment Proposals 10 & 11 are approved, instead of a 4% penalty, a 1% penalty, and 1% interest would be added to an unpaid tax amount as of September 1st, and each month thereafter 1% interest would be added to the unpaid balance. In other words, a taxpayer who is late on September 1st is penalized less than one who is two months late.

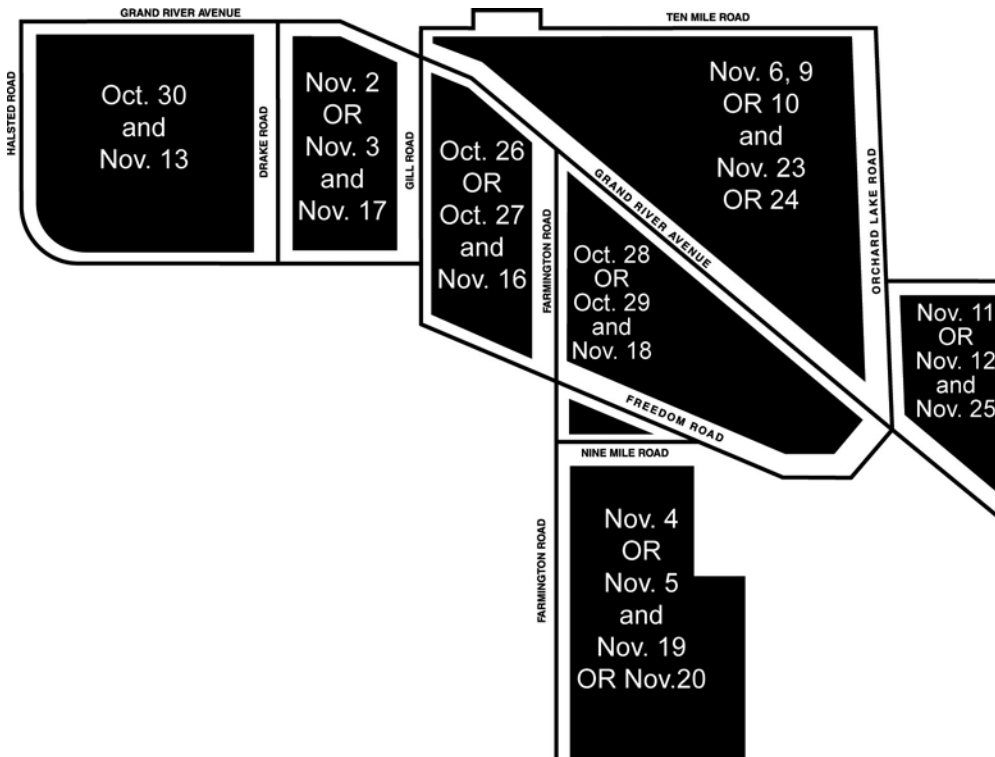
Please contact the chair of the Charter Review Committee listed below or the City Clerk if you would like additional information on the proposed charter amendments.

Arnold Campbell, Chair (248) 476-8733

Sue Halberstadt, City Clerk (248) 474-5500, ext. 218



City of Farmington 2009 Leaf Pickup Schedule



Leaf pickup begins on October 26, 2009. Each area of the map is scheduled for **TWO** pickups. Residents are reminded that the program is not designed to remove all leaves. **IT IS A SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM ONLY.**

Leaves should be raked to the curb no sooner than 48 hours before the date of pickup.

Any earlier may cause drainage and traffic problems. **LEAVES SHOULD NOT BE RAKED INTO THE STREET. AREAS**

WITH MULTIPLE CONSECUTIVE PICKUP DAYS SHOULD PUT THEIR LEAVES OUT BY THE FIRST DAY AS LEAF CREWS MAY NOT BE RETURNING EACH DAY. During weeks when no pickup is scheduled, leaves should be placed in paper bags or labeled yard waste containers for pickup by the rubbish contractor. All vehicles must be parked on private property during leaf pickup hours of **7:30 a.m.** and **4:00 p.m.**



This schedule is subject to change due to weather or other factors.