

## NOVEMBER 2016 BALLOT QUESTIONS WITH EXPLANATIONS

Shall the Charter for the City of East Providence be amended as follows?

Shall the Charter be amended to establish a Mayor/Council form of government in the City of East Providence; establish a two year term for Mayor; establish the powers, duties and salary of the Mayor; change the wording from City Manager to Mayor and provide for appointment of a City Solicitor and Assistant Solicitor by the Mayor subject to Council approval?

### ARTICLE III. MAYOR

#### 3-1 Election; Term of Office

There shall be a Mayor who shall be elected at the City general election for a term of two years and until his/her successor is elected and qualified. The term of the Mayor shall begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in December following said general election.

#### 3-2 Qualifications

The Mayor shall be a legal resident of the City for at least four (4) years next preceding his/her election and a qualified elector of the city.

#### 3-3 Compensation

The Mayor shall receive an annual salary of \_\_\_\_ [Fill in] or such other salary that may be prescribed by ordinance; provided that the salary of the Mayor shall not be changed after the filing of nomination papers for the office or during term of office for which the Mayor was elected.

#### 3-4 Chief Executive and Administrative Officer

The Mayor shall be the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the City and shall be responsible for the administration and management of all offices, departments and agencies except as may otherwise be provided by this Charter.

#### 3-5 Powers and Duties

- (1) Appoint, and when necessary for the good of service, remove all officers and employees of the City except as otherwise provided by this Charter and except as he/she may authorize the head of a department or office to appoint and remove subordinates in such department or office;
- (2) Notify the City Council of all appointments, which shall be in writing and filed with the City Clerk within five (5) days of the appointments;
- (3) Prepare the annual budget and submit it to the council with recommendations and be responsible for its administration upon approval by the council;
- (4) Prepare and submit the City Council within ninety (90) days of the close of the fiscal year a comprehensive annual report of the financial transactions and administrative activities of the City and prepare and make available for distribution to the public within six (6) months of the close of the fiscal an audited complete financial statement on the finances and administrative activities of the City for the preceding year.
- (5) Keep the Council advised of the financial condition and future needs of the City and make sure recommendations as may seem to him/her desirable.
- (6) Enforce or cause to be enforced the laws and ordinances of the City of East Providence.
- (7) Recommend to the City Council such measures as he/she may consider necessary and expedient for enactment.
- (8) Negotiate contracts on behalf of the City subject to the approval of the City Council, except as otherwise provided for by the Charter or State Law.
- (9) In the event of a disaster, catastrophe or other similar event the Mayor shall have the power and authority to declare a municipal emergency and to take whatever action he/she deems necessary to protect the health, safety and security of the City and its inhabitants.
- (10) Supervise, control and direct the activities and operations of all departments and administrative offices of the City within his/her jurisdiction.

(11) Review all rules and regulations of the various department and administrative offices and only upon his/her approval shall they become effective.

(12) Perform such other such duties as may be required of him/her by ordinance.

(13) Be recognized as the official head of the City government for all ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of Military Law.

#### 3-6 Passage of Ordinances over Veto

No Ordinance shall take effect without the approval of the Mayor unless

(1) The Mayor shall fail to sign the ordinance or to return it to the Council within ten (10) consecutive days after its passage; or

(2) The Council upon immediate reconsideration shall approve the ordinance by the affirmative votes of at least four (4) of its members notwithstanding the disapproval of the Mayor.

#### 3-7 Temporary Absence

In the event of the temporary absence or disability of the Mayor, not exceeding ninety (90) days, the President of the Council shall act as Mayor, for the time being until the Mayor shall return to his/her duties or until his/her disability shall cease. While serving during the temporary absence of the Mayor, the President of the Council shall not make any appointments or removals other than temporary appointments, until he/she shall have served as Acting Mayor for thirty (30) consecutive days and then only with the consent of the City Council.

#### 3-8 Vacancy

In the event of an absence exceeding ninety (90) days the City Council may declare the office of Mayor vacant.

#### 3-9 Vacancy

In the event of a vacancy of the office of Mayor, if less than six (6) calendar months remains until a regular election and the office of Mayor is declared vacant, the President of the City Council shall act as Mayor. If the President of the City Council shall resign or be unable to act then the council shall elect as a majority of its members one of its members to serve as Acting Mayor. If the time between the occurrence of such vacancy and the next municipal election is six (6) months or more the City Clerk shall call a special election in the manner prescribed by the State Law to fill such vacancy in the office of Mayor.

#### EXPLANATION:

This Charter amendment establishes a Mayor/Council form of government in the City of East Providence. It establishes a two year term of office for the Mayor with the first mayoral election to be held in November 2018; establishes the powers, duties and salary of the Mayor; changes the wording from City Manager to Mayor and provides for appointment of a City Solicitor and Assistant Solicitor by the Mayor subject to Council Approval.

A vote to Approve would establish a Mayor/Council form of government. A vote to reject would retain the current Council/City Manager form of government.