



# CHARTER REVISION GUIDE

## FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION

City of Monroe voters will be asked to consider three changes to the City of Monroe Charter on the upcoming November 3, 2020 ballot. Two of the proposed amendments address administrative changes and will be discussed in this Charter Revision Guide. The third change relates to a proposed tax increase to fund road and trails in the City. Proposed administrative charter changes address provisions that are no longer applicable due to changes in State statutes, state and federal case law, and in some cases, no longer best practices. All charter amendment proposals have been reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office.

## ORIGINAL CHARTER LANGUAGE

### C-32. Eligibility for Elective Office:

No person shall be eligible as a candidate for any elective office in said City, except Justice of the Peace and Constable, unless he shall be twenty-five (25) years of age and a citizen of the United States and of the State of Michigan, and shall have resided in said City for a period of not less than two (2) years immediately prior to his nomination; and no person shall be eligible to any office in said City unless he shall be able to read and write the English language.



### C-47. Appointive Officers Designated; Removal:

Section 47 of the City Charter lists the following appointed officers along with a specified term: City Attorney (2 years), Chief of Police (One year), Fire Chief (One Year), City Engineer (One Year), Four members of the Board of Review of which the City Attorney serves, all for a one year term, and three election inspectors for each precinct serving one year terms. Language in this section allows the City Council to remove an appointed official by majority vote.



## WHY CHANGE IT NOW?

The proposed ballot language would reduce the age eligibility to 21 which follows the State of Michigan Constitution age eligibility requirement to serve in the Michigan House of Representatives or the Michigan Senate. The proposed amendment eliminates reference to the Justice of the Peace since that elected position no longer exists. The proposed amendment removes the sentence requiring a candidate to be able to read and write the English language. This is no longer enforceable when considering a candidate with disabilities has alternative means of communication. The language that one must live in the City prior to nomination remains unchanged.

The proposed amendment would eliminate the terms for the appointed office since the City Council can remove them at any time by a majority vote. The removal language in the charter does not change. Furthermore, the City Council has not made annual appointments for the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, and City Engineer for decades. The City Attorney serves at the City Council's pleasure and the retainer agreement reflects that. Board of Review members would still follow the appointment process. Election inspectors are appointed by the Election Commission.