



**City of San Diego
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT NINE
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: February 2, 2015 **Reference:** M-15-02-01

TO: Council President Sherri S. Lightner, Chair
Committee on Charter Review

FROM: Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald 

SUBJECT: Charter Review Committee Priorities

This is in response to your memo dated December 18, 2014 regarding priorities for the Special Issues Committee on Charter Review. With the understanding that additional ideas may arise as we go through the process, I respectfully submit the following topics of concern for potential charter updates and modifications:

1. The Committee should take all necessary steps to solicit the maximum possible public input into the process.
2. To the greatest extent possible, make the charter language easy for the average citizen to understand and digest. Use plain language and minimize the amount of text.
3. Create an introductory passage outlining the purposes and goals of the San Diego City Charter.
4. To the extent possible, place the most significant proposed charter amendments on the General Election Ballot for 2016, as opposed to the Primary Election ballot. The purpose would be to allow for the greatest amount of participation by voters, who turn out in greater numbers for the general election. If necessary, place items that are merely housekeeping in nature on the primary ballot.
5. Reform the referendum process to reduce the potential for results to be influenced by a small number of people spending large amounts of money. Take steps to ensure that campaigns for and against referendum measures are conducted transparently and without willful deception.
6. Incorporate the language of Council Policy 500-09 Minimum Staffing for Fire Engines and Fire Trucks.

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7. Examine whether the city needs to reform Charter Sections 26 and 26.1 in order to allow voters to consider having all users pay for refuse collection and thereby provide more General Fund revenue for public safety, infrastructure and other critical needs.
8. Remove the responsibility of setting Mayoral and Council salaries from the City Council. Look to the recommendations of the city's Salary Setting Commission.

ME/tt

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council