City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-5846, **Agenda Item #:** 19.   10/10/2024

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Title 2 (Administration) to add Chapter 2-18 (Ballot Propositions) relating to assignment of alphabetical letters to identify ballot propositions in future elections.

Lead Department

Law Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

This proposed ordinance reflects the Charter Review Commission's Recommendation to assign an alphabetical rotation for proposition labeling in future elections to reduce the potential for voter confusion.

Adoption of this ordinance would create a new chapter, 2-18 (Ballot Propositions) to Title 2 (Administration) of City Code. Section 2-18-1 (Ballot Proposition Labeling) addresses the following:

1)   Ballot propositions are assigned the next available letter of the alphabet following the last letter used by the ballot proposition from the previous municipal election. For example, if the previous municipal election included Propositions A, B, and C, the following municipal election's ballot proposition would begin with D. Once the letter Z is used, the following municipal election's ballot proposition would reset to A.

2)   If the count of ballot propositions in a municipal election exceeds the remaining letters of the alphabet, then ballot proposition labels may be reset to the letter A without using the remaining letters of the alphabet. For example, if there are 20 propositions on a ballot in a municipal election and the prior municipal election's ballot propositions were labeled D through H, then instead of starting with Proposition I and exhausting the remaining letters of the alphabet, the City Clerk has the option to start with Proposition A.

If a municipal election has more than 26 ballot propositions, then the 27th proposition will utilize double letters such as AA, BB, CC, etc. In the following municipal election, the propositions would reset back to A.

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