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Austin

CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION

I, Erika Brady, City Clerk of the City of Austin, Texas, hereby certify that:

A petition proposing to: "amend the City Charter to require an Independent Affordability and Efficiency Initiative on a regular basis and before any tax rate increase election and requiring the Independent contractor to identify annual and multi-year savings that exceed the cost of the contractors' service" was filed with the City Clerk on June 2, 2026.

At the time of filing, the petition was comprised of 9,245 pages containing 21,131 signatures. In accordance with the City of Austin Charter and state law, the number of signatures required for a sufficient initiative petition is 5% of the qualified voters of the City or 20,000, whichever number is the smaller. Based on the number of qualified voters of the City, the required number of signatures is 20,000.

Based on verification against the voter registration rolls obtained from Travis County, Hays County and Williamson County, I have determined the following facts regarding this petition:

The raw-count number of signatures filed with the petition was 21,131. The required number of signatures is 20,000. The Texas Election Code authorizes the use of random sampling to verify petitions of large size, and the City has used the same random sampling method since 2002. Under that method, and in accordance with law, 25% of the total number of submitted signatures on this petition were verified, which equates to a sample size of 5,283.

Based on the analysis of the random sample results, it has been determined that the petition meets the requirement for the minimum number of signatures of valid voters, based on the required minimum of 20,000. Of the 5,283 sample lines checked under the sampling method, 246 of the sample lines were disqualified on account of being duplicate signatures of registered voters who signed more than once (8), not being on the voter roll (37) or for other reasons (201). The remaining 5,037 sample lines were validated as bearing signatures of qualified voters.

Based on the above, the petition is determined to be sufficient. Please see the attached report on the statistical analysis.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Austin on this the 22nd day of June 2026.

CITY OF AUSTIN TEXAS TRAVIS COUNTY

EBrady

Erika Brady, City Clerk
City of Austin, Texas

<u>BALLOT PROPOSITION PETITION: INDEPENDENT AFFORDABILITY & EFFICIENCY INITIATIVE</u>

Caption: An Amendment to the Austin City Charter to require an **Independent Affordability and Efficiency Initiative on a regular basis and <u>before any tax rate increase election</u>** and requiring the Independent contractor to **identify <u>annual and multi-year savings</u> that exceed the cost of the contractor's service**.

<u>CHARTER AMENDMENT</u>

The Charter of the City of Austin is hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE VII, add § 18. – **INDEPENDENT AFFORDABILITY & EFFICIENCY INITIATIVE**

(A) By this Charter amendment, the People of Austin hereby require that an Independent Affordability and Efficiency Initiative ("IAEI") be performed as required by this provision.

(1) The IAEI shall include independent professional analysis and recommendations for changes that:

(a) as the top priority, ensures that the cost-of-living attributable to the City government is benchmarked to measures of Affordability of Austin residents and businesses of various levels of income and wealth;

(b) maximize the Performance of all City offices by creating and using measures and performance metrics of workload, costs, and outcomes to evaluate Performance of City offices;

(c) streamline and optimize the staffing and management Organization structure of the City for effectiveness and efficiency;

(d) develop measures and performance metrics of workload, costs, and outcomes that will be used to ensure Accountability of all entities contracting with the City to evaluate their Performance and condition payment on meeting such performance measures;

(e) identify Spending that can be reduced or eliminated;

(f) include a Forensic Accounting Analysis to publicly reveal and eliminate risks for fraud, conflicts-of-interest, waste, and abuse resulting from inadequate internal controls;

(g) ensure complete Transparency of Spending and Performance by all City offices and City contracting entities; and

(h) benchmark and compare all elements of the operation of the City, whether performed internally or by outside contractors, with similar Texas peer cities and programs.

(2) The scope of the Initiative does not include any matters included in Austin City Charter, Article VII, § 16 (Independent Audit). The scope of the Initiative must include review of all capital assets, sources of revenue, and expenditures of all parts of the City of Austin that are required by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) to be included in the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. However, the Initiative may be done in phases to begin with all City Funds and Departments except for Austin Electric, Austin Water, and Austin Airport Funds and then proceed to those component enterprises as determined by the City Auditor to best achieve the goals of the Initiative.

(3) The independent entity chosen to conduct the Initiative must, as determined by the City Auditor, have performed the same or similar work previously, must be independent of the City, and must be selected by competitive process by the City Auditor within 120 days after passage of this Amendment. The Initiative Independent Contractor must, by contract, commit to identify annual or multi-year cost savings that exceed the cost of the Contractor's services. The Initiative Independent Contractor must complete the Initiative within 1 year of the contract engagement.

(4) The Initiative must be repeated and completed every five (5) years after the completion of the first Initiative or more often as required herein. The City Council is hereby prohibited from ordering an election to increase the City's maintenance and operation ad valorem tax unless an Initiative complying with this Charter provision has been completed within one (1) year before such an election would occur.

(5) All drafts of the Initiative received by the City Auditor and all information gathered by the Initiative Independent Contractor is public information and shall be made available to the public upon request.

(B) The Austin City Council, City Manager, and City Auditor have a nondiscretionary duty and must take all actions necessary to implement the IAEI in the manner and as required by this Charter provision.

<u>PLEASE MAIL TO: 807 Brazos Street, Suite 306, Austin, TX 78701</u>