

## **Article-by-Article Brief Summaries**

### **Article I – General Powers**

Establishes the legal authority, broad home-rule powers, boundary definition, and rules of interpretation. It affirms intergovernmental cooperation and requires elected officials to act in accordance with the Charter.

### **Article II – City Council**

Defines City Council’s authority, structure (number of members, atlarge, by ward or hybrid), qualifications, terms, organization, meeting rules, voting procedures, and compensation. It also sets standards for forfeiture, vacancies, prohibitions, telecommunication participation, and Council operations.

### **Article III – Mayor**

Outlines the Mayor’s role as chief executive, including qualifications, election, powers, duties, veto authority, and supervision of City departments. It includes rules on forfeiture, vacancies, compensation, and emergency powers.

### **Article IV – Elected Controller**

Establishes the independent financial watchdog of the City. Sets qualifications, powers (including auditing, financial oversight, subpoena power), compensation, prohibitions, vacancies, and ability to appoint deputies or staff.

### **Article V – City Solicitor**

Defines the role of the City’s chief legal officer, including qualifications, appointment, term, duties, compensation, and authority to provide legal opinions and manage litigation. Allows for assistant solicitors and special counsel.

### **Article VI – Other Appointed Officials**

Creates the Department of Administrative Services and governs appointment, removal, and roles of department heads, the City Engineer, and the Deputy Mayor. It details succession procedures when the Mayor is unable to serve.

## **Article VII – Ordinances and Resolutions**

Defines how legislation is created, introduced, read, amended, enacted, published, vetoed, reconsidered, and when it takes effect. Establishes rules for emergency ordinances and the requirement that legislative actions be via ordinance unless otherwise allowed.

## **Article VIII – Budget and Finance**

Details the annual budget process, including preparation, submission, public hearings, amendments, adoption, tax increase limits, capital programming, financial reporting, and midyear adjustments. Establishes oversight measures and longrange financial planning.

## **Article IX – Authorities, Boards, and Commissions**

Provides for creation, modification, or abolition of City boards and commissions. Sets appointment procedures, terms, qualifications, and requirements for diversity and public reporting.

## **Article X – Administrative Code**

Requires adoption of an Administrative Code defining City organizational structure, department duties, financial policies, personnel rules, and operational procedures. Specifies timing, amendment rules, and interim use of existing state codes if delayed.

## **Article XI – Petition and Referendum**

Establishes citizen powers to propose ordinances, reconsider ordinances, call special Council meetings, and place issues on the ballot. Defines petition requirements, limitations, procedures, timelines, and election results.

## **Article XII – Ethics Commission**

Creates an independent Ethics Commission with authority over officials, employees, and vendors. Outlines membership, duties, investigations, advisory opinions, education, powers, and the requirement for Council to adopt a Code of Ethics.

### **Article XIII - Transition**

Provides rules for implementing the new Charter, including effective dates, continuation of offices, initial elections, abolition of the Treasurer, protections for employees, legal continuity, temporary ordinances, and establishment of a Transition Committee.