Bastrop, TX City Council Meeting Agenda

Bastrop City Hall City Council Chambers 1311 Chestnut Street Bastrop, TX 78602 (512) 332-8800



August 19, 2024 Special City Council Meeting at 5:00 PM

City of Bastrop City Council meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact the City Secretary at (512) 332-8800 or write 1311 Chestnut Street, 78602, or by calling through a T.D.D. (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) to Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

The City of Bastrop reserves the right to reconvene, recess, or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

PLEASE NOTE: ANYONE IN ATTENDANCE WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL MUST COMPLETE A CITIZEN COMMENT FORM AND GIVE THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE CITY SECRETARY PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING. ALTERNATELY, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE COUNCIL MEETING, YOU MAY COMPLETE A CITIZEN COMMENT FORM WITH YOUR COMMENTS AT CITYOFBASTROP.ORG/CITIZENCOMMENT AT LEAST TWO HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS ON THE REQUESTED DATE. COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY THIS TIME WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CITY COUNCIL DURING THE MEETING AND INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD, BUT NOT READ ALOUD. COMMENTS FROM EACH INDIVIDUAL IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

At this time, three (3) minute comments will be taken from the audience on any topic. Anyone in attendance wishing to address the Council must complete a citizen comment form and give the completed form to the City Secretary prior to the start of the City Council meeting. Alternately, if you are unable to attend the council meeting, you may complete a citizen comment form with your comments at <u>www.cityofbastrop.org/citizencommentform</u> at least two hours before the meeting starts on the requested date. Comments submitted by this time will be given to the City Council during the meeting and included in the public record, but not read aloud. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, if a citizen discusses any item not on the agenda, City Council cannot discuss issues raised or make any decision at this time. Instead, City Council is limited to making a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry. Issues may be referred to City Manager for research and possible future action. It is not the intention of the City of Bastrop to provide a public forum for the embarrassment or demeaning of any individual or group. Neither is it the intention of the Council to allow a member of the public to slur the performance, honesty and/or integrity of the Council, as a body, or any member or members of the Council individually or collectively, or members of the City's staff. Accordingly, profane, insulting or threatening language directed toward the Council and/or any person in the Council's presence will not be tolerated.

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

<u>3A.</u> Consider and act on the proposed Charter Review Commission amendments to the Charter, any additional requests by the City Council, and possibly calling for a special election on November 5, 2024.

Submitted by: Sylvia Carrillo-Trevino, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

<u>3B.</u> Consider and act on a charter amendment decriminalizing certain amounts of marijuana and possibly calling for a special election on November 5, 2024.

Submitted by: Sylvia Carrillo-Trevino, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

4A. City Council shall convene into closed executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code sections 551.071 and 551.074 to discuss the duties of the City Attorney.

5. TAKE ANY NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE ACTION ON MATTERS POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

All items on the agenda are eligible for discussion and action unless specifically stated otherwise.

The Bastrop City Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.087 (Economic Development), and §551.086 (Competitive Matters regarding Electric Utility).

6. ADJOURNMENT

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting as posted in accordance with the regulations of the Texas Open Meetings Act on the bulletin board located at the entrance to the City of Bastrop City Hall, a place of convenient and readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the City's website, <u>www.cityofbastrop.org</u> and said Notice was posted on the following date and time: Friday, August 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. and remained posted for at least two hours after said meeting was convened.

/s/Victoria Psencik

Victoria Psencik, Assistant City Secretary



Item 3A.

MEETING DATE: August 19, 2024

TITLE:

Consider and act on the proposed Charter Review Commission amendments to the Charter, any additional requests by the City Council, and calling the election to amend the City of Bastrop Charter for November 5, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Sylvia Carrillo-Trevino, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The Charter Review Commission has completed its review of the items that were requested of them and made their recommendation to the City Council.

The City Council deliberated such issues on August 13, 2024.

The proposed amendments and subsequent council action are shown in the attached ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$31,000 for a November election

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the amendment recommendations and call an election for November 2024.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Ordinance
- 2. Contract Sheet/Election Cost

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-____

ORDINANCE CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO AMEND THE HOME-RULE CHARTER

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS, CALLING FOR AND ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURES FOR A NOVEMBER 5, 2024, SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE HOME-RULE CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PROPER MEETING AND NOTICE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Cty Atty Note:

- First Reading occurred on October 13th.
- Second Reading is anticipated to occur on October 19th.
- Props F & G have been removed as unnecessary.
- Prop H (formerly J) has been modified
- Prop K (formerly M) has been modified (further in this "F")
- WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, seeks to call a special election to be held on November 5, 2024, for the purpose of amending the Home Rule Charter as hereinafter set out; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Bastrop's Home-Rule Charter is a foundational governmental document. Much like a municipality's constitution, the Charter is both the legal source of authority and a limit on the City's authority. Along with state law, it establishes the essential framework for the local government; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed Charter amendments will be adopted if approved by a majority of the qualified voters at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Charter, Article 11, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution, Chapter 52 of the Texas Election Code, and Sections 9.004 and 9.005 of the Texas Local Government Code; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to Local Government Code Section 9.004, the ordinance ordering the election shall provide for the election to be held on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Election Code or on the earlier of the date of the next municipal general election or presidential general election; and
- WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Texas further provide that the Election Code of the State of Texas is applicable to the elections, and an ordinance must be

City of Bastrop

passed establishing the procedures to be followed in the election and designating the voting places for the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS:

- **Section 1.** Finding of Facts: The recitals contained in the preamble hereof are hereby found to be true, and such recitals are hereby made a part of this Ordinance for all purposes and are adopted as a part of the judgment and findings of the City Council.
- **Section 2. Order:** It is hereby ordered that a special election be held in the City of Bastrop on November 5, 2024, in conformance with all applicable laws and as provided in this Ordinance, for the purpose of submitting to the voters certain proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of Bastrop.
- **Section 3.** Voters: All qualified voters of the City shall be entitled to cast a vote in the special election of the City.
- Section 4. Propositions: At the special election for consideration of proposed Charter amendments, the voters of the City of Bastrop may vote FOR or AGAINST each of the following amendments to the City Charter of the City of Bastrop, Texas:

PROPOSITION A

Shall Section 2.03 of the Charter be amended to conform with state law by removing reference to the City's power to annex territory without consent of the inhabitants?

____FOR

____AGAINST

PROPOSITION B

Shall Section 3.06(6) of the Charter be amended to conform with state law creating a vacancy on the city council when a council member announces their candidacy for certain elected offices and the unexpired term of the council member exceeds one year and thirty days?

____FOR

____AGAINST

Order Calling a Special Election to Amend the Home-Rule Charter

PROPOSITION C

Shall Section 3.16 of the Charter be amended to reflect the fact that codes of technical regulations are available to the public digitally and free of charge?

____FOR ____AGAINST PROPOSITION D Shall Section 3.17(b) of the Charter be amended to reflect the fact that ordinances are available to the public digitally and free of charge? _____FOR _____AGAINST PROPOSITION E

Shall Section 5.02 of the Charter be amended to conform with state law by stating that the term of office of municipal court judges shall be provided for by ordinance?

PROPOSITION F

(formerly H)

Shall Sections 14.03 and 14.04 of the Charter be repealed in their entirety as outdated, transitional provisions that are now irrelevant?

____FOR

____AGAINST

FOR

AGAINST

City of Bastrop

PROPOSITION G

(formerly I) Shall the Charter be amended throughout to replace gender - specific language with gender-neutral terminology?

____FOR

___AGAINST

PROPOSITION H

(formerly J)

Shall Section 3.01 of the Charter be amended to clarify that the Mayor appoints candidates to serve on boards (committees, commissions, task forces, etc.) and the Council confirms considers confirmation of the appointment?

FOR	
AGAINST	
PROPOSITION I	
<i>(formerly K)</i> Shall Section 3.07 of the Charter be amended to compensate the Mayor at a rate of \$400 per month and Council Members	
at \$250 per month? FOR AGAINST	

PROPOSITION J

(formerly L)

Shall Section 3.09 of the Charter be amended to mandate that the City Council must appoint a Charter Review Commission every six years?

____FOR

____AGAINST

PROPOSITION K

(formerly M)

Cty Atty Note: Council asked for 3 options to be presented on this item:

- (a) Shall Section 3.13 of the Charter be amended to specify that four members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to do business, but three voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for all other purposes of compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act?
- (b) Shall Section 3.13 of the Charter be amended to specify that four members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to do business, but three members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for all other purposes of compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act?
- (c) Shall Section 3.13 of the Charter be amended to specify that four members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to do business, but three members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for all other purposes of compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act except when attending a meeting of a committee appointed by the Council or discussing calling a Special Meeting?

_FOR

_AGAINST

PROPOSITION L

(formerly N)

Shall Section 4.01 of the Charter be amended to remove the requirement that the City Manager must reside within the City Limits?

____FOR

____AGAINST

Section 5. This City has eight (8) election precincts and voters are allowed to vote at any of the locations. The election shall be held at the following locations:

For Election Precincts 1001, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, 2010, 2011, and 3017 (including all of the area within the boundaries of the Bastrop City limits) the election polling places shall be as follows:

Wyldwood Baptist Church	398 Union Chapel Road	Cedar Creek
Aqua Water Supply	415 Old Austin Hwy.	Bastrop
River Valley Christian	1224 W. State Highway	Bastrop
Fellowship	71	
Bastrop County Courthouse	804 Pecan Street	Bastrop
Annex		
Paige Community Center	107 S. Main Street	Paige
Bastrop Co. ESD No. 2 Fire	926 FM 1441	Bastrop
Station 3		
Bastrop County Community	15 American Legion	Bastrop
Center	Drive	
Smithville Recreation Center	106 Royston Street	Smithville
Rosanky Community Center	135 Main Street	Rosanky
Bastrop County Cedar Creek	5785 FM 535	Cedar Creek
Annex		
Bastrop County Road and	1133 Dildy Dr.	Elgin
Bridge Precinct 4		
Red Rock Community Center	114 Red Rock Road	Red Rock
Elgin Recreation Center	361 N. Highway 95	Elgin
Faith Lutheran Church	230 Waco Street	McDade
Family Worship Center	2425 FM 1704	Elgin
Bastrop Co. ESD No. 2 Fire	1432 N. State Highway	Bastrop
Station 4	95	-

- **Section 6.** The County Elections Administrator is hereby authorized and instructed to provide and furnish all necessary election supplies to conduct the elections. Voting at such elections shall be prepared in conformity to the Texas Election Code.
- **Section 7.** The Office of the Texas Secretary of State has certified that the Election Systems & Software's (ES&S) EVS 6110 which includes the Express Vote ballot marking device, the DS850 central scanner, and the DS200 precinct scanner is an accessible voting system that may legally be used in Texas elections.
- **Section 8.** Sections 123.032 and 123.035 of the Texas Election Code authorize the acquisition of voting systems by local political subdivisions and further

City of Bastrop

mandate certain minimum requirements for contracts relating to the acquisition of voting of such voting systems.

- **Section 9.** As chief elections officer as appointed by the Bastrop City Council, **the Elections Administrator** must, according to Section 61.012 of the Texas Election Code provide at least one accessible voting system in each polling place used in a Texas election on or after January 1, 2006. This system must comply with state and federal laws setting the requirements for voting systems that permit voters with physical disabilities to cast a secret ballot.
- Section 10. For Election precincts 1001, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, 2010, 2011, and 3017 the presiding officer will be determined at a later date by Bastrop County Elections Administrator. The Presiding Judge at such election shall appoint no less than two (2), no more than five (5) clerks on election day.
- Section 11. The polls at the above-designated polling place shall be open on the Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Section 12. The City will use its official website to post those notices required by law and any election information it deems necessary during the conduct of this election. The City's website is https://www.cityofbastrop.org/.
- Section 13. Kristin Miles is hereby appointed Clerk for Early Voting. Early voting begins on October 21, 2024, the twelfth (15th) day before the election and ends on November 1, 2024, the fourth (4th) day preceding the date of the election. SECTION 23.

EARLY VOTING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS (voters are allowed to vote at any of the locations)

Main Location: Editor's Note: Verifying Hours

Bastrop County Courthouse Annex, Lower Level Conference Room, 804 Pecan St., Bastrop, Texas 78602.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
21	22	23	24	25
7:00 am –	8:00 am –	8:00 am –	8:00 am –	8:00 am –
7:00 pm	5:00 pm	5:00 pm	5:00 pm	5:00 pm
28	29	30	31	1
7:00 am –	8:00 am –	8:00 am –	8:00 am –	8:00 am –
7:00 pm	5:00 pm	5:00 pm	5:00 pm	5:00 pm

4 7:00 am – 7:00 pm				
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Branch Locations:

Smithville Rec Center, 106 Royston St., Smithville Bastrop County Cedar Creek Annex, 5785 FM, Bastrop also knowas 535,Cedar Creek, Bastrop Elgin Recreation Center, 361 N. Hwy 95, Elgin

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY 21 24 25 22 23 8:00 am -8:00 am -8:00 am -8:00 am -8:00 am -5:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 28 29 30 31 1 8:00 am -8:00 am -8:00 am -8:00 am -8:00 am -5:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 4 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

- Section 14. Ballot applications and ballots voted by mail should be addressed to the Early Voting Clerk, Kristin Miles, Bastrop County Elections Administrator, 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602. Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on October 25, 2024, the eleventh (11th) day before the election.
- Section 15. For Election Precincts 1001, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, 2010, 2011, and 3017, Carol Spencer is hereby appointed as Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board. In accordance with Section 87.002 et seq. of the Texas Election Code the presiding judge shall appoint at least two (2) other members to the Early Voting Ballot Board and shall process early voting results in accordance with the Texas Election Code.
- **Section 16.** The Presiding Judge and Alternate Presiding Judge will receive compensation at the rate of \$12.00 per hour. The Clerks will receive compensation at the rate of \$10.00 per hour. The Presiding Judge or

City of Bastrop	Order Calling a Special Election to	Page 8 of 10
	Amend the Home-Rule Charter	-

his/her designee will receive an additional \$25.00 for picking up the election supplies prior to Election Day and for returning the supplies after the polls close.

- **Section 17.** The special election shall be held in accordance with the Election Code and Local Government Code of this State and only resident qualified voters of the City shall be eligible to vote at the election.
- **Section 18.** The Mayor shall give notice of this election in accordance with the terms and provisions of Sections 4.004, 83.010, 85.004 and 85.007 of the Election Code, Section 9.004 of the Local Government Code, and all necessary orders and writs for the election shall be issued by the proper authority. Returns of the election shall be made to the City Council immediately after the closing of the polls.
- Section 19. Severability: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.
- Section 20. Repealer: All orders, ordinances, and resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this ordinance shall be and remain controlling as to the matters resolved herein.
- Section 21. Proper Meeting & Notice: The City Council hereby finds and declares that written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting at which this ordinance was adopted was posted and that such meeting was open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Ordinance and the subject matter hereof were discussed, considered and formally acted upon, all as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.
- **Section 22.** Effective Date: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage on the date shown below; provided that if any term or provision of this Ordinance conflicts with, or is inconsistent with, the Texas Elections Code, the Texas Election Code shall govern and control and the Election Officer shall comply with the Texas Election Code.

ATTEST:

READ & APPROVED on First Reading by the City Council of the City of Bastrop on this, the 13th day of August 2024.

READ & APPROVED on Second Reading by the City Council of the City of Bastrop on this, the 19th day of August 2024.

CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS:

Lyle Nelson, Mayor

Irma Parker, Interim City Secretary
APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Alan Bojorquez, City Attorney

CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES AND AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT JOINT ELECTION

§ § §

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BASTROP

This Contract for Election Services and Agreement to Conduct Joint Election (this "Contract") is entered into by and among BASTROP COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Texas (the "COUNTY"), the BASTROP COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR ("ADMINISTRATOR"), and the CITY OF BASTROP" (the "CITY"), a political subdivision of the State of Texas, individually, a "Party" or, collectively, the "Parties," pursuant to Section 31.092 and Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the CITY and the COUNTY each expect to call an election to be held on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the CITY and the COUNTY desire to conduct such elections jointly pursuant to Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code, and the CITY desires that certain election services for the CITY'S election be provided by ADMINISTRATOR through the COUNTY'S Elections Department pursuant to Chapter 31, Subchapter D of the Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, ADMINISTRATOR has provided a cost estimate for election services to be rendered by her office under this Contract, which estimate is set out on **Exhibit "A"** attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY, ADMINISTRATOR, and the CITY desire to enter into a contract setting out the respective responsibilities of the Parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

1.01 The Parties have entered into this Contract to conduct a joint election on November 5, 2024, and for certain election services to be provided to the CITY in connection with its election. The purpose of this agreement is to maintain consistency and accessibility in voting practices, polling places, and election procedures in order to best assist the voters of the CITY.

ARTICLE II JOINT ELECTION

2.01 The COUNTY and the CITY agree to conduct their respective November 5, 2024 elections jointly pursuant to Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code. ADMINISTRATOR is hereby appointed to serve as the CITY'S Election Officer and Early Voting Clerk to conduct the CITY'S November 5, 2024 election. As CITY'S Election Officer and Early Voting Clerk, ADMINISTRATOR will coordinate, supervise, and conduct all aspects of administering voting in connection with the CITY'S November 5, 2024 election in compliance with all applicable law, as provided in Article III hereof.

ARTICLE III

3.01 ADMINISTRATOR agrees to provide to the CITY the following general election services with respect to the CITY'S November 5, 2024 election, including early voting, regular Election Day voting, and any resulting run-off:

(A) Procure and distribute election supplies, including, but not limited to, the preparation, printing, and distribution of ballots and sample ballots, provided that the CITY will prepare the text of such ballots as set forth in Section 5.01(C) below;

(B) Procure election judges and clerks for early voting and Election Day voting;

(C) Procure early voting polling places and Election Day polling places. The ADMINISTRATOR will arrange for the use of all Election Day polling places and will arrange for the setting up of all polling locations for Election Day, including ensuring that each polling location has the necessary tables, chairs, and voting booths. The ADMINISTRATOR will provide the CITY with a list for presentation to the governing body of the CITY, containing a list of places, times, and dates of early voting suitable for consideration and adoption by the governing body in accordance with Texas Election Code Chapter 85. The ADMINISTRATOR will designate and confirm all Election Day polling place locations and present the list to the governing body of the CITY for approval;

(D) Procure, prepare, and distribute adequate election equipment and transport equipment to and from all polling locations, including early voting polling locations, for the CITY;

(E) Distribute the lists of registered voters to be used in conducting the election, as provided by Bastrop County Voter Registration;

(F) Pay election day and early voting judges and clerks;

(G) Pay the judges for election night returns and early voting returns;

(H) Provide training and information for all election officers;

(I) Provide general overall supervision of the election and advisory services;

(J) Prepare writ of election to election officers and notice of appointment to Presiding and Alternate judges, as required by law;

(K) Conduct election day voting and early voting, in person and by mail, for the CITY;

(L) Establish a Central Counting Station for the purpose of tabulating ballots. The Tabulation Supervisor will be responsible for handling ballot tabulation in accordance with statutory requirements and county policies, under the auspices of ADMINISTRATOR, and will, thereafter, transport all election records to the ADMINISTRATOR. The ADMINSTRATOR will conduct a manual count as prescribed by Section 127.201 of the Texas Election Code and submit a written report to the CITY in a timely manner. The Secretary of State may waive this requirement. If applicable, a

written report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as required by Section 127.201(E) of the aforementioned code. The ADMINISTRATOR will prepare the unofficial tabulation of precinct results under Section 66.056(a) of the Texas Election Code and will provide a copy of the tabulation to the CITY as soon as possible after the ADMINISTRATOR has received the precinct returns on election day night;

(M) Provide such incidental related services as may be necessary to effect the Election;

(N) At each polling location, provide at least one voting station with a voting system that:

(i) fully complies with applicable law relating to accessible voting systems which make voting accessible for disabled voters; and (ii) provides a practical and effective means for voters with physical disabilities to cast a secret ballot;

(O) Provide for Central Count Tabulation(s), including:a. Preparation and programming of the ballots on the ES&S 850 Optical Scanner; andb. Preparation and programming of the ES&S ExpressVote voting system;

(P) Serve as "regular early voting clerk" for the CITY to receive requests for applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail. Applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail will be processed in accordance with Title 7 of the Texas Election Code. Applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail received by the CITY will be faxed as promptly as possible to ADMINISTRATOR for processing. The original application will then be forwarded to ADMINISTRATOR for proper retention.

(Q) Serve as the custodian of voted ballots and other election records and preserve all election records in accordance with the Texas Election Code. After the applicable retention period, ADMINISTRATOR will forward all election records to the CITY.

ARTICLE IV SCHEDULE FOR PERFORMANCE OF ELECTION SERVICES

4.01 ADMINISTRATOR will perform all election services in accordance and compliance with the time requirements set out in the Texas Election Code.

ARTICLE V SERVICES NOT PROVIDED BY COUNTY

5.01 The CITY will be responsible for:

(A) preparing, adopting, publishing all required election orders, resolutions, notices, and other documents, including bilingual materials, evidencing action by the governing authority of the CITY necessary to the conduct of the election;

(B) preparing the text for the CITY'S official ballot in English and Spanish, or other languages as required by law;

(C) on or before August 19, 2024, providing ADMINISTRATOR with a copy of a document showing the propositions/places that are to appear on the official ballot for the

(D) conducting the official canvass of the CITY'S election;

(E) having a CITY representative serve as the custodian of its election records; and

(F) filing the CITY'S annual voting system report to the Secretary of State as required under Chapter 123 et seq. of the Texas Election Code.

5.02 Pursuant to Section 271.006(c), the CITY designates ADMINISTRATOR to serve as "regular early voting clerk" for the CITY to receive requests for applications for early voting ballots.

5.03 The Secretary of the governing body of the CITY will serve as the Custodian of Records for the CITY to complete those tasks in the Election Code that ADMINISTRATOR will not perform.

ARTICLE VI TERM

6.01 Except as hereinafter set out, the term of this Contract shall be from the time of execution until all items with respect to this Contract and the election held and administered by ADMINISTRATOR for the CITY hereunder have been completed.

ARTICLE VII COST OF SERVICE AND BILLING

7.01 In consideration for the services provided hereunder by ADMINISTRATOR, the CITY agrees to pay ADMINISTRATOR its pro rata share of performing the services, including any overtime incurred by ADMINISTRATOR'S employees. A cost estimate for election expenses is attached hereto and made a part of this contract as **Exhibit "A"**. The Parties agree that this is an estimate only and that the CITY is obligated to pay the actual expenses of the election as set forth herein. ADMINISTRATOR agrees to advise the CITY if it appears that the actual expenses incurred by ADMINISTRATOR will exceed by 20% or more the estimated expenses to be paid initially by the ADMINISTRATOR and reimbursed by the CITY. The CITY shall also pay ADMINISTRATOR an administrative fee equal to 10% of the actual costs set forth in Section 7.02(a) below, as permitted under Section 31.100(d) of the Texas Election Code.

7.02 As soon as reasonably possible after the election, ADMINISTRATOR will submit an itemized invoice to the CITY for (a) actual expenses directly attributable to the coordination, supervision, and running of the election and incurred on behalf of the CITY by ADMINISTRATOR, including expenses for supplies in connection with the election school(s), election supplies, wages paid to ADMINISTRATOR'S employees for services under this contract performed outside of normal business hours, election workers, and any other expenses reasonably and directly related to the election, including, without limitation, rental and programming of direct recording electronic voting devices and audio ballots, and (b) an administrative fee as provided in Section 7.01 above. Expenses related to wages shall be supported by compensation sheets. Other expenses shall be supported by invoices or receipts, except that the price of items coming out of ADMINISTRATOR'S stock of election supplies shall be supported by ADMINISTRATOR'S standard price list. The total amount due according to these invoices shall be offset by any payments previously made pursuant to this Contract.

7.03 The CITY shall pay ADMINISTRATOR'S invoice within 30 days from the date of receipt to: **Bastrop County, Attn: Kristin Miles, Elections Administrator, 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, TX 78602.** If the CITY disputes any portion of the invoice, the CITY shall pay the undisputed portion of the invoice, and the Parties will discuss in good faith a resolution of the disputed portion.

7.04 Payments made by the CITY in meeting its obligations under this Contract shall be made from current revenue funds available to the governing body of the CITY.

ARTICLE VIII GENERAL PROVISIONS

8.01 In accordance with Section 31.096 of the Texas Election Code, nothing in this contract shall be construed as changing

- a) the authority with whom applications of candidates for a place on the ballot are filed;
- b) the authority with whom documents relating to political funds and campaigns under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code are filed; or
- c) the authority to serve as custodian of voted ballots or other election records, except that the ADMINISTRATOR, if requested in writing by the CITY, will become the custodian of the voted ballots.

8.02 The parties acknowledge that the ADMINISTRATOR may contract with other entities holding elections at the same time as the CITY on November 5, 2024.

8.03 If the CITY cancels its election pursuant to Section 2.053 of the Texas Election Code, the ADMINISTRATOR shall only be entitled to receive the actual expenses incurred before the date of cancellation in connection with the election and an administrative fee of \$75. The ADMINISTRATOR shall submit an invoice for such expenses as soon as reasonably possible after the cancellation and the CITY shall make payment therefore in a manner similar to that set forth in 7.03 above. The ADMINISTRATOR agrees to use reasonable diligence not to incur major costs in connection with election preparations until it is known that the election will be held, unless the CITY authorizes such major costs in writing. An entity canceling an election will not be liable for any further costs incurred by the ADMINISTRATOR in conducting the November 5, 2024 Joint Election.

8.04 In accordance with Section 31.099 of the Texas Election Code, the ADMINISTRATOR agrees to file copies of this contract with the County Treasurer of Bastrop County, Texas and the County Auditor of Bastrop County, Texas.

8.05 This Contract shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in BASTROP County, Texas.

8.06 In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Contract shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, the invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision, and this Contract shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been a part of the Contract.

8.07 This Contract constitutes the only agreement of the Parties hereto and supersedes any prior

Item 3A.

understanding or written or oral agreement between the parties respecting the written subject $\frac{n}{n}$ matter.

8.08 No amendment, modification, or alteration of this Contract shall be binding unless it is in writing, dated subsequent to the date of the Contract and duly executed by all of the Parties.

8.09 Any notice to be given hereunder by any party to the other shall be in writing and may be effected by personal delivery, by certified mail, or by common carrier. Notice to a party shall be addressed as follows:

CITY: Contact Person Title City of Bastrop 1311 Chestnut Street Bastrop, TX 78602 Tel: Email:

COUNTY and ADMINISTRATOR:

Kristin Miles Elections Administrator Bastrop County 804 Pecan Street Bastrop, TX 78602 Tel: (512) 581-7160 Fax: (512) 581-4260 Email: <u>elections@co.bastrop.tx.us</u>

Notice by hand-delivery is deemed effective immediately, notice by certified mail is deemed effective three days after deposit with a U.S. Postal Office or in a U.S. Mail Box, and notice by a common carrier, is deemed effective upon receipt. Each party may change the address for notice to it by giving notice of such change in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

COUNTY:

BY:_____ Gregory Klaus County Judge Bastrop County, Texas

ADMINISTRATOR:

BY:_____ Kristin Miles **Elections Administrator** Bastrop County, Texas

CITY:

BY:
Printed Name:
Title:

ESTIMATED COST FOR THE CITY OF BASTROP

Election Expenses	\$28,420.52
Election Kits & other precinct supplies	\$ 200.00
SUBTOTAL 10% ADMINISTRATIVE FEE TOTAL	\$28,620.52 <u>\$ 2,862.05</u> <u>\$31,482.57</u>



MEETING DATE: August 19, 2024

TITLE:

Consider and act on a charter amendment decriminalizing certain amounts of marijuana and calling for a special election on November 5, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Submitted by: Sylvia Carrillo-Trevino, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

A petition was circulated that was certified and garnered sufficient signatures to be placed on the ballot in November 2024 regarding marijuana.

Per our City Attorney, the following is a list of cities who have passed ordinance amendments (not charter amendments)

- Austin: Ordinance No. 20220118-002; now codified in Title 16 of the Code of Ordinances as the Austin Freedom Act of 2021.
- San Marcos: Proposition A; now codified in Ch. 54, Art. 4 of the Code of Ordinances.
- Killeen: Proposition A; now codified in Ch. 21, Art. 5 of the Code of Ordinances.
- Denton: Proposition B; now codified in Ch. 22, Article 5 of the Code of Ordinances.
- Elgin: Proposition A; now codified in Ch. 24, Article 5 of the Code of Ordinances.

Subsequently, the Attorney General Ken Paxton, filed suit against such cities. The result of those changes are below:

- Austin: a Travis County district court judge dismissed the AG's case against the City.
- San Marcos: the AG suit remains pending.
- Killeen: the Bell County attorney filed suit against the City for the ordinance.
- Denton: the AG suit remains pending. However, both the City Council and Chief of Police have refused to enforce the ordinance.
- Elgin: the City settled with the AGs office via a consent decree and agreed to drop enforcement of the ordinance

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$31,000 for an election

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the attached staff report and consider the impacts of the amendment.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Memo from the Chief of Police, V. Steffanic
- 2. Election Costs
- 3. Ordinance language will be provided at the meeting on Monday.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the City Council

FROM: Chief of Police - Vicky Steffanic

CC: City Manager - Sylvia Carrillo

DATE: 08.16.2024

RE: Decriminalization of Marijuana

Irrespective of other items of potential concern in reference to decriminalizing marijuana; I would like to provide you with a perspective, or an outline if you will, of how this would directly affect the City of Bastrop Police Department, whether you are in favor of the measure or not. This way, you have undeviating information when you fashion your assessment.

1. The measure would be a city ordinance, the only agency that would be affected are officers with the City of Bastrop Police Department. Bastrop County Deputies, DPS Troopers and any other law enforcement acting within the city limits of Bastrop do not have to abide by the city ordinance. This could be confusing to some citizens as most do not separate the identities of officers based on agencies. In essence the ordinance would limit the options available to only the State certified officers with our department.

2. The State of Texas announced lawsuits against surrounding cities that have decriminalized marijuana (Austin, San Marcos, Killeen, Elgin, and Denton). In Denton, although the citizens voted to enact the ordinance, the city will not and does not enforce the decriminalization ordinance due to the conflict with State Law. In addition, citing marijuana related offenses often lead to discoveries of more violent crimes. The City of Harker Heights enacted an ordinance but repealed it soon afterwards citing that the decision should be left to the State. Whether or not the State will file charges against the City of Bastrop is not a decision that involves our department but a potential lawsuit from the State could affect any future grants decisions for our department. In the past, legislatures have seemingly pushed back on cities that have undermined State law.

3. State law requires that peace officers (as we are licensed by the State) follow State rules when it comes to marijuana enforcement.

4. Our current practice for marijuana offenses includes having the option to arrest. However, we typically issue a citation to appear in Municipal Court

rather than physically taking someone to jail. This allows us to have discretion based on the incident at hand but enables us to not arrest (which takes more time on the backend) and is a less expensive option when it comes to enforcement.

An ordinance that decriminalizes marijuana would mean our department would enforce State law and only have the option of making an arrest and filing charges. The ordinance would eliminate our current option of cite and release or arrest.

5. The local government code Chapter 51 Subchapter A section 51.002 Ordinance or Rules inconsistent with State Law Prohibited. "The governing body of a municipality may adopt, enforce or maintain an ordinance by rule only if the ordinance or rule is consistent with State Law".

6. Calls for service do not decrease or increase due to the decriminalization of marijuana. We do not typically receive many calls for marijuana (18 calls in the past year). However, decriminalization of marijuana for private use has led to marijuana use in public being more commonplace - meaning the normalization has typically caused other issues associated with public use. This may cause more of an increase in our calls but there is no statistical data to support this.

7. Along the lines of enforcement, marijuana is identified as a gateway drug, meaning we usually start with marijuana but end up with methamphetamine, alcohol, or fentanyl.

8. The THC levels in marijuana have noticeably increased in potency over the years, with further refinement in the form of derivatives such as 'edibles' and 'honey oil' estimated to have THC at 40 - 80% higher in these concentrated forms. What this means for our department is our rate of intoxicated / impaired driving increases.

Respectfully Submitted

VS

Chief of Police Vicky Steffanic City of Bastrop Police Department 104 Grady Tuck Lane Bastrop, Texas 78602

CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES AND AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT JOINT ELECTION

§ § §

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BASTROP

This Contract for Election Services and Agreement to Conduct Joint Election (this "Contract") is entered into by and among BASTROP COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Texas (the "COUNTY"), the BASTROP COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR ("ADMINISTRATOR"), and the CITY OF BASTROP" (the "CITY"), a political subdivision of the State of Texas, individually, a "Party" or, collectively, the "Parties," pursuant to Section 31.092 and Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the CITY and the COUNTY each expect to call an election to be held on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the CITY and the COUNTY desire to conduct such elections jointly pursuant to Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code, and the CITY desires that certain election services for the CITY'S election be provided by ADMINISTRATOR through the COUNTY'S Elections Department pursuant to Chapter 31, Subchapter D of the Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, ADMINISTRATOR has provided a cost estimate for election services to be rendered by her office under this Contract, which estimate is set out on **Exhibit "A"** attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY, ADMINISTRATOR, and the CITY desire to enter into a contract setting out the respective responsibilities of the Parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

1.01 The Parties have entered into this Contract to conduct a joint election on November 5, 2024, and for certain election services to be provided to the CITY in connection with its election. The purpose of this agreement is to maintain consistency and accessibility in voting practices, polling places, and election procedures in order to best assist the voters of the CITY.

ARTICLE II JOINT ELECTION

2.01 The COUNTY and the CITY agree to conduct their respective November 5, 2024 elections jointly pursuant to Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code. ADMINISTRATOR is hereby appointed to serve as the CITY'S Election Officer and Early Voting Clerk to conduct the CITY'S November 5, 2024 election. As CITY'S Election Officer and Early Voting Clerk, ADMINISTRATOR will coordinate, supervise, and conduct all aspects of administering voting in connection with the CITY'S November 5, 2024 election in compliance with all applicable law, as provided in Article III hereof.

ARTICLE III

3.01 ADMINISTRATOR agrees to provide to the CITY the following general election services with respect to the CITY'S November 5, 2024 election, including early voting, regular Election Day voting, and any resulting run-off:

(A) Procure and distribute election supplies, including, but not limited to, the preparation, printing, and distribution of ballots and sample ballots, provided that the CITY will prepare the text of such ballots as set forth in Section 5.01(C) below;

(B) Procure election judges and clerks for early voting and Election Day voting;

(C) Procure early voting polling places and Election Day polling places. The ADMINISTRATOR will arrange for the use of all Election Day polling places and will arrange for the setting up of all polling locations for Election Day, including ensuring that each polling location has the necessary tables, chairs, and voting booths. The ADMINISTRATOR will provide the CITY with a list for presentation to the governing body of the CITY, containing a list of places, times, and dates of early voting suitable for consideration and adoption by the governing body in accordance with Texas Election Code Chapter 85. The ADMINISTRATOR will designate and confirm all Election Day polling place locations and present the list to the governing body of the CITY for approval;

(D) Procure, prepare, and distribute adequate election equipment and transport equipment to and from all polling locations, including early voting polling locations, for the CITY;

(E) Distribute the lists of registered voters to be used in conducting the election, as provided by Bastrop County Voter Registration;

(F) Pay election day and early voting judges and clerks;

(G) Pay the judges for election night returns and early voting returns;

(H) Provide training and information for all election officers;

(I) Provide general overall supervision of the election and advisory services;

(J) Prepare writ of election to election officers and notice of appointment to Presiding and Alternate judges, as required by law;

(K) Conduct election day voting and early voting, in person and by mail, for the CITY;

(L) Establish a Central Counting Station for the purpose of tabulating ballots. The Tabulation Supervisor will be responsible for handling ballot tabulation in accordance with statutory requirements and county policies, under the auspices of ADMINISTRATOR, and will, thereafter, transport all election records to the ADMINISTRATOR. The ADMINSTRATOR will conduct a manual count as prescribed by Section 127.201 of the Texas Election Code and submit a written report to the CITY in a timely manner. The Secretary of State may waive this requirement. If applicable, a

written report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as required by Section 127.201(E) of the aforementioned code. The ADMINISTRATOR will prepare the unofficial tabulation of precinct results under Section 66.056(a) of the Texas Election Code and will provide a copy of the tabulation to the CITY as soon as possible after the ADMINISTRATOR has received the precinct returns on election day night;

(M) Provide such incidental related services as may be necessary to effect the Election;

(N) At each polling location, provide at least one voting station with a voting system that:

(i) fully complies with applicable law relating to accessible voting systems which make voting accessible for disabled voters; and (ii) provides a practical and effective means for voters with physical disabilities to cast a secret ballot;

(O) Provide for Central Count Tabulation(s), including:a. Preparation and programming of the ballots on the ES&S 850 Optical Scanner; andb. Preparation and programming of the ES&S ExpressVote voting system;

(P) Serve as "regular early voting clerk" for the CITY to receive requests for applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail. Applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail will be processed in accordance with Title 7 of the Texas Election Code. Applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail received by the CITY will be faxed as promptly as possible to ADMINISTRATOR for processing. The original application will then be forwarded to ADMINISTRATOR for proper retention.

(Q) Serve as the custodian of voted ballots and other election records and preserve all election records in accordance with the Texas Election Code. After the applicable retention period, ADMINISTRATOR will forward all election records to the CITY.

ARTICLE IV SCHEDULE FOR PERFORMANCE OF ELECTION SERVICES

4.01 ADMINISTRATOR will perform all election services in accordance and compliance with the time requirements set out in the Texas Election Code.

ARTICLE V SERVICES NOT PROVIDED BY COUNTY

5.01 The CITY will be responsible for:

(A) preparing, adopting, publishing all required election orders, resolutions, notices, and other documents, including bilingual materials, evidencing action by the governing authority of the CITY necessary to the conduct of the election;

(B) preparing the text for the CITY'S official ballot in English and Spanish, or other languages as required by law;

(C) on or before August 19, 2024, providing ADMINISTRATOR with a copy of a document showing the propositions/places that are to appear on the official ballot for the

(D) conducting the official canvass of the CITY'S election;

(E) having a CITY representative serve as the custodian of its election records; and

(F) filing the CITY'S annual voting system report to the Secretary of State as required under Chapter 123 et seq. of the Texas Election Code.

5.02 Pursuant to Section 271.006(c), the CITY designates ADMINISTRATOR to serve as "regular early voting clerk" for the CITY to receive requests for applications for early voting ballots.

5.03 The Secretary of the governing body of the CITY will serve as the Custodian of Records for the CITY to complete those tasks in the Election Code that ADMINISTRATOR will not perform.

ARTICLE VI TERM

6.01 Except as hereinafter set out, the term of this Contract shall be from the time of execution until all items with respect to this Contract and the election held and administered by ADMINISTRATOR for the CITY hereunder have been completed.

ARTICLE VII COST OF SERVICE AND BILLING

7.01 In consideration for the services provided hereunder by ADMINISTRATOR, the CITY agrees to pay ADMINISTRATOR its pro rata share of performing the services, including any overtime incurred by ADMINISTRATOR'S employees. A cost estimate for election expenses is attached hereto and made a part of this contract as **Exhibit "A"**. The Parties agree that this is an estimate only and that the CITY is obligated to pay the actual expenses of the election as set forth herein. ADMINISTRATOR agrees to advise the CITY if it appears that the actual expenses incurred by ADMINISTRATOR will exceed by 20% or more the estimated expenses to be paid initially by the ADMINISTRATOR and reimbursed by the CITY. The CITY shall also pay ADMINISTRATOR an administrative fee equal to 10% of the actual costs set forth in Section 7.02(a) below, as permitted under Section 31.100(d) of the Texas Election Code.

7.02 As soon as reasonably possible after the election, ADMINISTRATOR will submit an itemized invoice to the CITY for (a) actual expenses directly attributable to the coordination, supervision, and running of the election and incurred on behalf of the CITY by ADMINISTRATOR, including expenses for supplies in connection with the election school(s), election supplies, wages paid to ADMINISTRATOR'S employees for services under this contract performed outside of normal business hours, election workers, and any other expenses reasonably and directly related to the election, including, without limitation, rental and programming of direct recording electronic voting devices and audio ballots, and (b) an administrative fee as provided in Section 7.01 above. Expenses related to wages shall be supported by compensation sheets. Other expenses shall be supported by invoices or receipts, except that the price of items coming out of ADMINISTRATOR'S stock of election supplies shall be supported by ADMINISTRATOR'S standard price list. The total amount due according to these invoices shall be offset by any payments previously made pursuant to this Contract.

7.03 The CITY shall pay ADMINISTRATOR'S invoice within 30 days from the date of receipt to: **Bastrop County, Attn: Kristin Miles, Elections Administrator, 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, TX 78602.** If the CITY disputes any portion of the invoice, the CITY shall pay the undisputed portion of the invoice, and the Parties will discuss in good faith a resolution of the disputed portion.

7.04 Payments made by the CITY in meeting its obligations under this Contract shall be made from current revenue funds available to the governing body of the CITY.

ARTICLE VIII GENERAL PROVISIONS

8.01 In accordance with Section 31.096 of the Texas Election Code, nothing in this contract shall be construed as changing

- a) the authority with whom applications of candidates for a place on the ballot are filed;
- b) the authority with whom documents relating to political funds and campaigns under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code are filed; or
- c) the authority to serve as custodian of voted ballots or other election records, except that the ADMINISTRATOR, if requested in writing by the CITY, will become the custodian of the voted ballots.

8.02 The parties acknowledge that the ADMINISTRATOR may contract with other entities holding elections at the same time as the CITY on November 5, 2024.

8.03 If the CITY cancels its election pursuant to Section 2.053 of the Texas Election Code, the ADMINISTRATOR shall only be entitled to receive the actual expenses incurred before the date of cancellation in connection with the election and an administrative fee of \$75. The ADMINISTRATOR shall submit an invoice for such expenses as soon as reasonably possible after the cancellation and the CITY shall make payment therefore in a manner similar to that set forth in 7.03 above. The ADMINISTRATOR agrees to use reasonable diligence not to incur major costs in connection with election preparations until it is known that the election will be held, unless the CITY authorizes such major costs in writing. An entity canceling an election will not be liable for any further costs incurred by the ADMINISTRATOR in conducting the November 5, 2024 Joint Election.

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Item 3B.

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COUNTY:

BY:_____ Gregory Klaus County Judge Bastrop County, Texas

ADMINISTRATOR:

BY:_____ Kristin Miles **Elections Administrator** Bastrop County, Texas

CITY:

BY:
Printed Name:
Title:

ESTIMATED COST FOR THE CITY OF BASTROP

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