



Legislation Text

File #: 68427, **Version:** 1

Fiscal Note

No City appropriation required.

Title

To discuss at the December 7, 2021 Common Council meeting the results of the Spring 2021 advisory referendum election and determine whether a binding referendum election shall be authorized related to the structure of the Common Council.

Body

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2017 the City of Madison created the Task Force on Government Structure ("Task Force") (RES-17-00714) to examine and make recommendations related to the structure of the Mayor's Office, Common Council, and the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees; and,

WHEREAS, after extensive study, public outreach and debate, the Task Force issued a Final Report and recommendations to the Common Council, including recommendations to institute a full-time Common Council, to reduce the size of the Council, increase terms to four years, and limit alderpersons to serving 12 consecutive years on the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council authorized a series of advisory referendum questions be placed on the ballot for the 2021 Spring Election in order to solicit public feedback related to a full-time Council, the size of the Council, the length of Alder terms, and term limits; and

WHEREAS, the Council's resolution authorizing the advisory referendum questions also directed that the Task Force Implementation Workgroup collaborate with the Mayor's Office to evaluate the results of the Advisory Referendum and take the necessary steps to prepare a resolution that, if approved by the Common Council, would place binding referendum questions related to the structure of Madison's government on the Spring 2022 election ballot; and

WHEREAS, given that the majority of voters in the 2021 Spring Election voted against questions to create a full-time Council, changing the size of the Council, increasing Alder terms and creating four-year terms for Alder, and given that such proposals significantly impact the structure of City government and are of interest to all members of the Council;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,,that the Council shall convene on December 7, 2021 to discuss and determine whether to authorize a binding referendum election related to any of the recommendations of the Task Force regarding the structure of the Common Council, including referendum questions similar to those posed as advisory referendum questions at the 2021 Spring Election, and to determine the language of any such referendum questions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council shall determine, at the meeting of December 7, 2021 or a subsequent meeting, what, if any, other measures to pursue related to the Task Force's Final Report recommendations regarding the structure of the Council if a binding referendum election is not authorized; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Council shall further determine what, if any, additional directions to provide to the Task Force Implementation Workgroup related to the Task Force's Final Report recommendations pertaining to the structure of the Common Council.

