



City of Cambridge Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

City Hosting Listening Sessions on Proposed Charter Amendments on August 30, September 6

Cambridge, MD (August 24, 2023). The City of Cambridge invites residents, business leaders, and other stakeholders to attend listening sessions to engage in dialogue about several proposed charter amendments addressing special elections procedures and filling vacancies in elected offices.

The first listening session will be held on Wednesday, August 30th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Empowerment Center. The second listening session will be held on Wednesday, September 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Intergenerational Center. The Empowerment Center is located at 615B Pine Street, and the Intergenerational Center is located at 108 Chesapeake Street.

The City's charter is the primary governing document for the Commissioners of Cambridge, akin to the City's constitution. Amending the charter is therefore a relatively rare occurrence and resident involvement is vital to the process.

Listening sessions offer an informal exchange of ideas among participants. Interested parties can join the conversation at any time during the listening session and respond to the City's proposed amendments or other participant suggestions. This format allows for a free flowing exchange of ideas in addition to a formal public hearing process which will follow.

In the last twelve months, the City of Cambridge has held two special elections and one runoff election to address vacancies in the positions of mayor and commissioners. These elections and the vacancies in offices have prompted discussion about the City's election procedures over the last year.

In March, the Commissioners of Cambridge held a work session to discuss policy options and possible amendments to the charter. A second Council work session was held in August to discuss specific proposed amendments developed by the city attorney and city manager. The current working draft of possible amendments can be viewed on the City's website at: [Proposed Charter Revisions PWT v.2](#)

The Commissioners of Cambridge are expected to begin considering legislation to amend the City's charter in September, a process which will include formal public hearings and public notices. Any changes to the charter would be in effect by the start of 2024 and would govern the upcoming general election to be held in the fall of 2024.

Before this formal process begins, the City is hosting informal listening sessions to hear from residents and gather additional input.

For more information about the proposed charter amendments, these listening sessions, or the upcoming charter amendment process, email City Manager Tom Carroll at TCarroll@ChooseCambridge.com.

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