



September 10, 2020

RE: Proposed Charter Amendments on November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot

Dear Mayfield Village Residents,

The Charter of Mayfield Village has been in effect since January of 1975. It contains 12 articles on a variety of topics, including one requiring that, every five years, a Charter Review Commission be appointed to review the Charter and recommend amendments to be presented to the voters at the next general election.

The 2020 Charter Review Commission was appointed by Mayor Bodnar and Council in January. After a thorough review of the Charter, the Commission recommended four amendments to appear on the November 3rd ballot for voter approval. The amendments were placed into ordinance form and, after approval by Council, were submitted to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections where they were assigned issue numbers and ballot language was finalized.

Following is the ballot language you can expect to see when you vote on November 3, 2020, whether by mail or in-person, with some background about each proposed amendment.

ISSUE # 15 SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 6 OF THE CHARTER OF THE VILLAGE OF MAYFIELD BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT INCREASES IN COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL BE ENACTED BY ORDINANCE AND SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE FOR APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY THEREOF?

Historically, the job of determining appropriate compensation for all elected officials has been the responsibility of Village Council. In 2015, the Charter Review Commission recommended that the compensation of the Mayor and Council be increased and the amounts inserted into the Charter. This recommendation was placed on the ballot and was approved by voters. This year, the Mayor and Council sought to amend their compensation following the same method. The 2020 Charter Review Commission determined that an increase was likely in order but that it was more appropriate for Council to make that determination, recommending that the specific compensation amounts be removed from the Charter. If approved by the voters, compensation amounts will be removed from the Charter and Council will publish the current compensation by ordinance. Increasing the compensation of the Mayor or Council shall

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continue to be established by Council, subject to voter approval. For the record, it will remain the same as the Mayor and Council are no longer seeking an increase in compensation.

ISSUE # 16 SHALL ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4 AND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5 OF THE CHARTER OF THE VILLAGE OF MAYFIELD BE AMENDED SO AS TO PROVIDE GENDER NEUTRAL LANGUAGE?

In 2015, voters approved an amendment to provide for gender neutral language throughout the Charter. Unfortunately, some changes were missed. This proposal is merely cleaning up two Sections in the Charter that currently do not use gender neutral language.

ISSUE # 17 SHALL ARTICLE V, SECTION 1 AND SECTION 12 OF THE CHARTER OF THE VILLAGE OF MAYFIELD BE AMENDED TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE “BOARD OF APPEALS, BZA OR BOARD” TO “BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS”?

During its review of the Charter, the Commission noted that the Board of Zoning Appeals is referred to inconsistently throughout the Charter. In order to clarify that the same body is being referred to, the Commission recommended that it be referred to as “Board of Zoning Appeals” in this Article.

ISSUE # 18 SHALL ARTICLE V, SECTION 6(E) OF THE CHARTER OF THE VILLAGE OF MAYFIELD BE AMENDED TO ALLOW COMPETITION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITIONS OF POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF, AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF FROM THE SUPERVISORY RANKS BELOW, AND IF THERE ARE NOT TWO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS, THEN THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MAY PERMIT COMPETITION FROM THE NEXT LOWER RANK BELOW SUPERVISORY RANKS (PATROL OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIREFIGHTERS IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT), AS WELL AS TO INCLUDE COMPETITION FROM QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT AS DETERMINED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION?

The Charter provides that when a vacancy occurs in the position of Police Chief or Fire Chief, the position is to be filled by promotion from among persons holding positions in the rank below. If two qualified and willing candidates are not found within the Department to compete in the Civil Service Examination, the Civil Service Commission may permit competition from qualified individuals outside the Department. This

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amendment was requested by the current Police Chief and Fire Chief to clarify that the intent is to allow competition from all lower supervisory ranks prior to seeking individuals outside the Departments. With the recent addition of an Assistant Fire Chief, it was also recommended that this position be included in the Charter language.

If you have questions about any of these proposed Charter amendments, feel free to call the Civic Center at 440-461-2210. Village employees will be happy to assist you to better understand these important issues that have been placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Thank you for your interest in reviewing this information and I urge everyone to exercise their right to vote. Following is some additional information about available voting methods in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Coyne
Mayfield Village Law Director

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

HOW TO VOTE:

If you are not registered to vote, you can do so until 30 days before the election. The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections' website includes a wealth of information regarding voter registration, identification requirements, change of address, etc. and a ballot tracker tool is now available so that you can check the status of your mail-in ballot.

Visit www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us or call 216-443-VOTE (8683) for detailed information.

Residents of Mayfield Village, who are registered voters, can cast their ballots in a variety of ways.

1. IN-PERSON VOTING

Polls at the Mayfield Village Civic Center, 6622 Wilson Mills Road, will be open on November 3, 2020 from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. for in-person voting. To protect against COVID-19, masks will be required and social distancing will be enforced. Poll workers will also be sanitizing voting equipment between voters, so please expect the process to take longer than normal.

2. EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

To avoid lines, beginning October 6, 2020 through November 2, 2020, voters can go to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Office (2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH) to cast their ballots. Hours for early voting are listed at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

3. VOTE-BY-MAIL

The Ohio Secretary of State has mailed Vote-by-Mail Ballot Applications to all registered voters. If you did not receive one, a Vote-by-Mail Ballot Application can be requested online at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us or by calling 216-443-VOTE (8683). Applications must be returned to the Board of Elections either by mail or at the secure drop box located in the Board of Elections' parking lot at 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Ballots will be mailed by the Board of Elections beginning on October 6, 2020. To be counted, your ballot must be received by the Board of Elections:

- By 7:30 p.m. on Election Day if delivered *in person* by the elector or a close family member; or
- Postmarked by the post office by the day before Election Day and received by the Board of Elections no later than 10 days after the election if sent by *U.S. Mail*.