



2025

Election

Voter Education





CITY OF BRENHAM ELECTION INFORMATION
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

The City of Brenham will be having an election on Saturday, May 3, 2025. The election will be for two (2) purposes:

1. A **General Election** to elect one Councilmember for Place 1 – Ward 1 and one Councilmember for Place 6 – At Large. Both positions will be for four (4) year terms.
2. A **Special Election** for the purpose of voting on twelve (12) proposed amendments to the City's Home Rule Charter.

The following information related to the May 3, 2025 Election is included in this booklet and may also be found on the City's website at www.cityofbrenham.org:

- General Election Order
- Ordinance Calling the Special Election
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Where Do I Vote?
- Map of the City Wards

ORDER

AN AMENDED ORDER PROVIDING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING ONE COUNCILMEMBER FOR PLACE 1 – WARD 1; ONE COUNCILMEMBER FOR PLACE 3 – WARD 3; ONE COUNCILMEMBER FOR PLACE 5 – AT LARGE; AND ONE COUNCIL MEMBER FOR PLACE 6 – AT LARGE, EACH FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS, FOR THE CITY OF BRENHAM, TEXAS

A general election is hereby ordered to be held on **MAY 3, 2025**, the same being the first Saturday in May, for the purpose of:

ELECTING ONE COUNCILMEMBER FOR PLACE 1 – WARD 1; ONE COUNCILMEMBER FOR PLACE 3 – WARD 3; ONE COUNCILMEMBER FOR PLACE 5 – AT LARGE; AND ONE COUNCIL MEMBER FOR PLACE 6 – AT LARGE, EACH FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted every weekday at the **Washington County Annex Building, 100 S. Park Street, Brenham, Texas**, as follows:

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025 through Tuesday, April 29, 2025
from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The first day for a candidate to file an application for a place on the general election ballot is Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

The last day for a candidate to file an application for a place on the general election ballot is 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 14, 2025.

Applications for ballots by mail should be mailed to:

**Carol Jackson, REO, EA
Early Voting Clerk
Washington County Elections Office
100 E. Main Street, Suite 105
Brenham, Texas 77833**

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, **April 22, 2025**.

On Election Day, said election shall be held at the following designated voting places in the City of Brenham, Texas, for voters of the particular Wards:

Ward 1: Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
100 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy.
Brenham, Texas

Ward 2: Washington County Event Center
1305 E. Blue Bell Road
Brenham, Texas

Ward 3: Brenham VFW Hall
1200 E. Tom Green Street
Brenham, Texas

Ward 4: Blinn Jr. College Student Center
1007 Walter Schwartz Way
Brenham, Texas

The City shall provide at least one AutoMARK v. 1.0. Voting System in each polling place in every polling location used to conduct this election.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Brenham, Texas on this the 3rd day of April 2025.

Atwood C. Kenjura
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. O-25-004

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BRENHAM, TEXAS, ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF BRENHAM REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION ON MAY 3, 2025, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING PROPOSITIONS TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF BRENHAM, TEXAS FOR CERTAIN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE CITY; STATING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED UPON AT SAID ELECTION; DESIGNATION OF EARLY VOTING DATES AND TIMES AND POLLING PLACES OF SAID ELECTION; PROVIDING THE FORM OF THE BALLOT AND DIRECTING THAT THE NOTICE OF ELECTION BE GIVEN; PROVIDING FOR FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES; CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY THE TEXAS ELECTION CODE; DIRECTING PUBLICATION AS REQUIRED BY LAW; FINDING THAT THE MEETINGS AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE IS CONSIDERED ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code, Section 9.004(b) provides that the ordinance ordering a charter amendment election shall provide for the special election to be held on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Texas Election Code or on the earlier of the date of the next municipal general election or presidential general election; and

WHEREAS, May 3, 2025 is the date provided for in the Texas Election Code for the next regular general election in the City of Brenham, Texas, therefore the City is authorized to order a special charter amendment election to be held on May 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 4 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Brenham provides for amending the Charter and having the amendments submitted to the voters; and

WHEREAS, the Home Rule Charter amendment election shall be held and conducted in accordance with Sections 9.001, 9.004 and 9.005 of the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable election laws; and

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

SECTION 1.
GENERAL PROVISIONS

That a Special Election shall be held on May 3, 2025 for the purpose of submitting ballot propositions to the qualified voters of the City of Brenham, Texas for proposed amendments to the existing Home Rule Charter.

Subsection A: That a Special Election shall be held in the City of Brenham, Texas on the 6th day of May, 2025 at which election ballot propositions for proposed amendments to the City of Brenham Home Rule Charter shall be voted upon by the resident qualified voters of the City of Brenham.

Subsection B: That early voting by personal appearance in said election shall be conducted every weekday at the **Washington County Annex Building**, 100 S. Park Street, Brenham, Texas, as follows:

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025 through Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 8:00
a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:**

Subsection C: That all applications for ballots by mail shall be mailed to:

**Carol Jackson, REO, EA
Early Voting Clerk
Washington County Elections Office
100 E. Main Street, Suite 105
Brenham, Texas 77833**

All applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Subsection D: That said election shall be held at the following designated voting places in the City of Brenham, Texas, for voters of the particular Wards:

- Ward 1: Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
 100 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy.
 Brenham, Texas
- Ward 2: Washington County Event Center
 1305 E. Blue Bell Road
 Brenham, Texas
- Ward 3: Brenham VFW Hall
 1200 E. Tom Green Street
 Brenham, Texas
- Ward 4: Blinn Jr. College Student Center
 1007 Walter Schwartz Way
 Brenham, Texas

Subsection E: That said election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas, and only duly qualified resident voters of the City of Brenham shall be allowed to vote.

Subsection F: Notice of said election shall be given as provided by in the Texas Election Code and the Texas Local Government Code.

Subsection G: The City Secretary is hereby authorized and instructed to publish notice of said election as required by law.

Subsection H: There are a total of twelve (12) amendment propositions on the ballot for the May 3, 2025 special charter amendment election. It is estimated that eleven (11) of the proposed amendments are anticipated to have no fiscal impact to the City of Brenham if the 11 proposed amendments are approved at the special election. Only Proposition I is anticipated to have any fiscal impact on the City of Brenham. If Proposition I is approved at the special election, it is estimated that the City of Brenham will have a budget impact of nineteen thousand, five hundred and no/100 dollars (\$19,500.00) per fiscal year for an increase in the Mayor and City Councilmember's monthly salaries.

Subsection I: There shall be placed on the official ballot the following proposed amendments to the City Charter for the City of Brenham, Texas, and the ballot shall provide that the voter may approve or disapprove the propositions which are stated individually as follows:

AMENDMENT A

SHALL ARTICLE I, SECTION 2; ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 1, 2 AND 8; ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21 AND 23, 24; ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 1, 2, 3 AND 8; ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 1, 2, 3 AND 4; ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 3, 6, 9, 11 AND 15-19; AND ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 6, 12, 14, 15, 19 AND 24 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING GRAMMAR CORRECTIONS, SPELLING CORRECTIONS, PUNCTUATION CORRECTIONS, DELETION OF RESERVED SECTIONS AND RENUMBERING, AND VOCABULARY CHANGES BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT; BOUNDARIES

Sec. 2. - Boundaries

The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to establish the boundary limits of the City of Brenham; and to provide for the alterations and extension of said boundary limits, the annexation of additional territory to the City and the detachment or disannexation of territory, with or without the consent of the owners and inhabitants of the territory annexed, detached or disannexed. The boundaries of the City shall be those established by ordinance of the City Council enacted in accordance with the procedures provided for in applicable federal, state or other law. The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description of the City boundaries, indicating all annexations, detachments and disannexations.

ARTICLE II. POWERS

Sec. 1. – Powers generally.

The said City of Brenham shall have power to ordain and establish such acts, laws, rules, regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of Texas and of this Charter, as shall be needful for the government, interests, health, welfare and good order of said City and its inhabitants. Under the name of the City of Brenham it shall be known in law and have succession and be capable of contracting and being contracted with, suing and being sued, impleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, in all courts and tribunals, and in all amounts whatsoever, subject to the laws of the State of Texas, or which shall hereafter be passed.

The City of Brenham shall have the power to take, hold, lease, grant, purchase and convey such real property or mixed property or estate, situated within, or without, the limits thereof, as the purpose of said corporation may require and shall have and use a corporate seal, and change and renew the same at its pleasure.

Sec. 2. – Rights reserved.

All suits, taxes, penalties, fines, forfeiture, and all other rights, claims and demands, of every kind and character, which have accrued under the laws in favor of said City, heretofore in force governing the same, shall belong to and vest in said ~~e~~City and shall not abate by reason of the adoption or amendment of this Charter, and shall be prosecuted and collected for the use and benefit of said City of Brenham and shall not be in any manner affected by the taking effect of this Charter; but as to all of such rights, the laws under which they shall have accrued shall be deemed to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. – Manufacture of electricity, gas, etc.; purchase and sale of gas, water, electricity, etc.

Said City shall have the authority to manufacture its own electricity, gas or anything else that may be needed or used by it or the public; to make contracts with any person, firm or corporation for the purchase of gas, water, electricity or any other commodity or articles used by it or the public, and to sell same to the public as may be determined by the ~~governing authority~~ City Council.

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 8. - Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own election and qualification.

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered forthwith by the Election Judges to the City Secretary. The Council shall canvass the returns,; investigate the qualifications of the candidates, and declare the official results of the election in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by Ward totals, when applicable. At each election the qualified person receiving a majority of all votes cast for the office that person seeks shall thereon be declared elected by said Council.

The City Council shall be judges of the election and the Council's qualification of its members shall be conclusive and final for all purposes.

Sec. 15. - Calling special meetings; determining rules and order of business; journal; quorum; voting on measures.

The Mayor or any three (3) Councilmembers may call special meetings of the City Council at any time deemed advisable. The City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business; and shall keep a journal of the proceedings in a permanently bound book and any citizen shall have access to the minutes and record thereof at all reasonable times. Any four (4) members of the City Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, and the affirmative vote of the four (4) members of the City Council shall be sufficient and necessary to adopt or repeal any ordinance or resolution. The vote upon the passage or repeal of any ordinance or resolution shall be taken by "yea" or "nay" vote; and entered upon the journal. Except when required by law to abstain from voting on a matter before the City Council, each member of the City Council present at the meeting shall vote upon every question, ordinance or resolution which shall be entered upon the journal. Any Councilmember refusing to vote except when required by law to abstain shall be entered on the journal as voting in the affirmative.

Sec. 17. - Introduction and passage of ordinances and resolutions.

Each proposed ordinance or resolution shall be introduced in written or printed form, shall not contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly stated in the title; but general appropriation ordinances may contain the various subjects and accounts for which moneys are to be appropriated. No ordinance, unless it shall be declared to be an emergency measure; and passed by a unanimous vote ~~to~~of the City Council, shall be passed on the day on which it shall be introduced. All ordinances, save and except emergency ordinances, shall be finally passed on the second reading. Ordinances not required to be published shall take effect and be in force from and after the passage thereof, unless otherwise provided.

Sec. 18. - Emergency measures.

An emergency measure is an ordinance or resolution for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, or safety, or providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department, in which the emergency is set forth and defined in a preamble thereto. Ordinances appropriating money and ordinances for the payment of salaries and wages may be passed as emergency measures, but no measure making a grant, renewal or extension of a franchise, or other special privilege or regulating the rate to be charged for ~~its~~ services by any utility, shall ever be passed as an emergency measure.

Sec. 19. - Publication of penal ordinances.

The City Secretary shall publish, in a newspaper of general circulation within the City, any ordinances required by state or federal law to be published. The City Secretary may abbreviate the text of any ordinance for publication purposes. Such ordinances shall take effect upon the date of publication unless otherwise required by law or stated in the ordinance. Ordinances related to, ~~provided that~~ emergency measures shall take effect according to their terms.

Sec. 21. - Recording and authenticating documents.

The City Council shall appoint a City Secretary who shall be responsible for the original documentation of all laws, notices, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, and related official records of the governing body; all deeds, easements, leases, titles and related documents of ownership of City property; and the municipal charter and seal. Every ordinance or resolution, upon its becoming effective, shall be kept in the permanent files of the City and shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and the City Secretary, or in their absence, the person exercising their duties as appointed by the City Council.

Secs. ~~23~~, 24. - Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. THE CITY MANAGER; FINANCES

Sec. 1. - Appointment; position; qualifications; removal.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager, who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. He shall be chosen upon qualification and fitness for the exercise of his duties. He may or may not be a resident of the City of Brenham when appointed; but shall establish his residence within the City as directed by the City Council. The City Council may engage a City Manager by agreement for a term not to exceed one year; however, the City Manager is subject to removal at any time, with or without cause, by City Council.

Sec. 2. - Duties generally.

Except as provided in Article III, section 1 of the Charter or other applicable law, the City Manager or the City Manager's designee shall appoint all officers and employees of the City. The City Manager shall exercise control and supervision over all departments and offices that may be created by the City Council or City Manager and all officers and employees appointed by him. He shall attend all meetings of the City Council with the right to take part in the discussion; but having no vote. He shall recommend in writing to the City Council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient. He shall keep the City Council fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or which may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the City Council.

The City Manager may create and consolidate appointive offices and positions, may divide the administration of the City's affairs into such departments as he may deem advisable, and may discontinue any such appointive office, position, or department at his discretion, except the office of the City Manager, City Secretary, Deputy City Secretary(ies), Municipal Court Judge, Associate Municipal Court Judge(s), City Attorney and Municipal Court Prosecutor.

Sec. 3. - Annual budget.

The annual budget of the City shall be prepared by the City Manager based on the estimates of each department. These departmental estimates shall include the expenses of the department for the preceding year and indicate where increases or reductions ~~diminutions~~ are recommended for the ensuing year. The City Manager shall submit the budget to the City Council for approval.

Sec. 8. - Issuance of checks for payroll and other claims.

No check for the payment of payroll or of any claim shall be issued by the City unless such claims shall be evidenced by an itemized account, in accordance with approved City Budget including amendments, approved by the signature of the City Manager or his designee, and all checks shall be signed by any two of the following: Mayor, City Secretary, City Manager or ~~and~~ the Chief Financial Officer.

ARTICLE V. IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Sec. 1. - Purpose.

The City shall have the right and power to borrow money upon the credit of the City and to issue bonds of the City therefor, in such sum or sums as may be deemed expedient, for the purpose of improving the streets, purchasing or constructing sewers, erecting and maintaining public buildings of every kind and for purchasing or constructing waterworks and gas plants and systems and for the purpose of purchasing, erecting, maintaining and operating an electric light and power plant and such other public utilities as the City Council ~~governing authority~~ may, from time to time, deem expedient, and for any other purpose authorized by state law.

Sec. 2. - Specifying purpose; sale; interest and sinking fund.

All bonds shall specify for what purpose they are issued, and shall be sold for cash. When any bonds are issued by the City a fund shall be provided to pay the interest on those bonds and create a sinking fund to redeem said bonds. Said fund shall not be diverted or drawn upon for any other purpose, and the custodian of the funds of the City shall honor no drafts upon said fund except to pay interest upon or redeem the bonds for which it was provided. The City shall have the power to invest said sinking funds in securities secured by the pledge of United States Bonds or Federal Agency Bonds, Texas State or County Bonds, or Bonds of the City of Brenham, or other municipality, or any school district, or any other investment authorized by state law.

Sec. 3. - Maximum period; signing; specifying places and times of payment; approval by state officials; issuance.

Said bonds shall be issued for a period of time not to exceed forty (40) years; shall be signed by the Mayor, countersigned by the person acting in the capacity of City Secretary, and both principal and interest shall be payable at such places and times as may be fixed by the ordinance of the City Council governing authority. All such bonds shall be submitted to the Attorney-General of the State for his approval and the Comptroller for registration, as provided by the ~~S~~state law; provided, that any such bonds, after approved, may be issued by the City, either optional or serial, or otherwise, as may be deemed advisable by the City Council governing authority.

Sec. 4. - Submitting to referendum.

Before the issuance of any bonds the same shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the City as required by state law~~the General Laws of the State~~.

ARTICLE VI. TAXATION

Sec. 3. - Occupation tax.

The City shall have the power to levy and collect occupation taxes consonant with the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, and shall authorize the granting and issuance of licenses and shall direct the manner of issuing and registering the same and fix the fees thereafter, but no license shall be issued for a longer period than one year and shall not be assignable except by permission of the City Council governing authority of the City.

Sec. 6. - Rendition, etc., as to omitted property.

The City shall have the power to provide for the rendition of unrendered property for taxation, and levy and assess taxes thereon annually, and to provide for the rendition, levy and assessment of taxes for previous years on the property omitted from taxation in the manner provided by ~~S~~state law~~of this State~~.

Sec. 9. - Time of levying.

The City Council governing authority of the City, at its first meeting in September of each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable, shall levy the annual tax for such year, but special taxes or assessments allowed by this Charter may be levied, assessed and collected at such times as the City Council governing authority may provide; provided, that should the City Council governing authority fail or neglect to levy the annual tax herein provided for any one year the annual tax levy for the preceding year last made by said governing authority shall and will be considered in force and effect as the tax levy for the year for which no annual tax was made.

Sec. 11. - City not required to give bond; payments to city to be in legal currency.

It shall not be necessary in any action, suit or proceeding, in which the City shall be a party, for any bond, undertaking, or security to be executed in behalf of the City. Nothing of value nor anything save official currency~~money current~~ of the United States shall be received in payment of taxes, fines, forfeitures, penalties and debts due and owing to said City.

Secs. 15—19. - Reserved.

ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 6. - Establishment of wards; purpose.

The City shall be divided and established into four (4) wards, having boundaries described by ordinance, for the purpose of securing a more equal distribution of representation on the City Council by the people of the whole City. Newly annexed territory shall be added to the adjacent Ward as City Council may provide. No person shall be a candidate for Councilmember from any ward of the City unless he shall have been, for twelve (12) months preceding the date of the election at which he is a candidate, a resident of the ward represented by the office to which he aspires, and must possess the other qualifications as prescribed in this Charter; provided, however, that the qualifications as to residence in any one ward shall not apply to the Mayor or at-large Councilmembers. Any candidate, Mayor or Councilmember who during his candidacy or term of office moves his place of residence from the City or the ward which he represents automatically ipso facto forfeits his right to such office.

Sec. 12. - Liability and notice of injury or damage claims.

Before the City of Brenham shall be liable for damages of any kind, the person injured or the owner of the damaged property, or someone on~~in~~ his behalf shall give the Mayor or City Councilmembers notice in writing of such injury or damage within ninety (90) days, or within six (6) months for good cause shown, after the same has been received stating specifically in such notice when, where and how the injury or damage occurred and the extent thereof. Failure to notify the Mayor or City Councilmember within the time and manner specified herein shall exonerate, excuse and exempt the City from any liability whatsoever. Further, this section shall not apply to the taking, damaging or destruction of property as guaranteed and covered by Section 17 of Article I of the Constitution of Texas.

Sec. 14. - Court.

The City Council shall establish and provide for a court, designated as the "Municipal Court" for the trial of misdemeanor offenses, with all such jurisdiction, powers, duties as are now, or may hereafter be prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas relative to municipal courts.

The Municipal Court shall be presided over by a Magistrate who shall be known as the Judge of the Municipal Court. The City Council shall provide for the qualifications of the Judge and any Associate Municipal Judge(s). The Judge and any Associate Judge(s) of said court shall be appointed by the City Council to serve a term of office of two (2) years; however, they shall be removable at any time, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the City Council. Any such judge shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Council. In the event a judge is temporarily unable to act for any reason, the Mayor shall appoint a qualified person to temporarily act in the judge's place. In the event a vacancy exists in the office of Judge or Associate Judge for any reason, the City Council, by majority vote, shall appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

There shall be a Municipal Clerk of said court ~~appointed~~^{appointed} by the City Manager. The Clerk of said Court shall have the power to administer oaths and affidavits, make certificates, affix the seal of said court thereto, and generally do and perform any and all acts necessary in issuing process of said Court and conducting business thereof. There may be such Deputy Clerks of the Municipal Court as may be authorized and appointed by the City Manager, which Deputy Clerks shall have authority to act for and on behalf of the Clerk of the Municipal Court. Said Municipal Court Clerk and Deputy Clerks shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Manager.

There shall also be an attorney appointed by the City Council to serve as the prosecutor in Municipal Court and said prosecutor shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Council.

Sec. 15. - Council investigations.

The City Council may investigate the financial transactions of any office or department of the City government, and the acts and conduct of any official or employee. In conducting such investigation, the City Council may compel the attendance of witnesses, the production of checks and papers, and other evidence and for that purpose may issue subpoenas or attachments which shall be signed by the Mayor, and which may be served and executed by any officer authorized by law to serve subpoenas or other process, or by any peace officer of the City. If any witness shall refuse to appear to testify to ~~any~~^{and} facts within his knowledge, or to produce any papers or books in his possession, or under his control, relating to the matter under investigation before the City Council, the City Council shall have the power to cause the witness to be punished as for contempt, not exceeding a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). No witness shall be excused from testifying to ~~any fact without touching~~ his knowledge of the matter under investigation in any such inquiry, but such testimony shall not be used against him in any criminal prosecution except for perjury committed upon such inquiry.

Sec. 19. - Filing, examination and certification of petitions.

Within thirty (30) days after an initiative or referendum petition is filed, the City Secretary shall determine whether the same is signed by the requisite number of qualified voters. The City Secretary shall declare void any petition paper which does not have an affidavit attached thereto as required in Section ~~18~~²⁰C of this Article. In examining the petition the Secretary shall write the letters "DV" (declared void) in red ink opposite the names of signatures found not qualified to vote. After completing examination of the petition, the Secretary shall certify the result thereof to the Council at its next regular meeting, stating the number of the persons found on the petition who are qualified to vote and the number of persons found on the petition who ~~are~~^{are} not qualified to vote. If the Certificate of the City Secretary shall show an initiative or referendum petition to be insufficient, the Secretary shall notify the persons filing the petition, and it may be amended within ten (10) days from the date of such notice by filing a supplementary petition upon additional papers signed and filed as provided for in the original petition. Within ten (10) days after such amendment is filed, the Secretary shall examine the amended petition and certify as to its sufficiency. If the amended petition is found to be insufficient, the Secretary shall return the petition to the person filing the same, without prejudice to the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

Sec. 24. - Recall ballot.

Ballots used at recall elections shall conform to the following requirements: (1)"1". With respect to each person whose removal is sought the question shall be submitted "shall (show name of officer) be removed from the office of (name of office)?"; and (2)"2". Immediately below each such question there shall be printed the two (2) following propositions, one above the other, in the order indicated: "For the recall of (name of officer)". "Against the recall of (name of officer)."

AMENDMENT A SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION A

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article I, Section 2; Article II, Sections 1, 2 and 8; Article III, Sections 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24; Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 8; Article V, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4; Article VI, Sections 3, 6, 9, 11 and 15-19; and Article VII, Sections 6, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 24 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by 1) making corrections to grammar, spelling and punctuation errors; 2) deleting reserved sections of the Charter throughout all Articles of the Charter and renumbering the sections due to deletions and other revisions as necessitated by other propositions on this ballot that are approved by the voters; and 3) making non-substantive vocabulary changes in order to use modern and consistent terminology, titles, and labels, which shall include but not be limited to, changing the references to members of the governing body from "governing authority" to "City Council"?

AMENDMENT B

SHALL ARTICLE I, SECTION 2 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT; BOUNDARIES

Sec. 2. - Boundaries.

The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to establish the boundary limits of the City of Brenham; and to provide for the alterations and extension of said boundary limits, the annexation of additional territory to the City and ~~the detachment or~~ disannexation of territory, with or without the consent of the owners and inhabitants of the territory annexed, ~~detached or~~ disannexed, in accordance with applicable federal, state or other law. ~~The boundaries of the City shall be those established by ordinance of the City Council enacted in accordance with the procedures provided for in applicable federal, state or other law.~~ The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description of the City boundaries, indicating all annexations, ~~detachments~~ and disannexations.

AMENDMENT B SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION B

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | Shall Article I, Section 2 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying the authority, procedures and terminology concerning annexation and disannexation of territory to be consistent with applicable federal, state or other law? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | |

AMENDMENT C

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 4 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING CITY COUNCIL TERMS OF OFFICE BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 4. - Terms of office; term limits.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall serve for a term of four (4) years, beginning with the first meeting of the City Council following their election until the later of the first meeting of the City Council following the regular election four (4) years later or their successor has been elected and duly qualified.

A person shall not serve as Mayor more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office. Time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor for an unexpired term shall not count toward the term limit. After completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, a person may again serve in the office of Mayor after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Mayor. Non-consecutive terms of office shall not be limited.

A person shall not serve as a Councilmember, either in a ward or at-large, more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years. Time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Councilmember for an unexpired term shall not count toward the twelve (12) year term limit. After completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years, a person may again serve in the office of Councilmember after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Councilmember. Non-consecutive terms of office shall not be limited.

Terms of office, or partial terms of office, served prior to May 3, 2025 shall not be considered for the purpose of term limits.

AMENDMENT C SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION C

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article III, Section 4 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that a person may not serve as Mayor more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office; providing that after completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, a person may again serve in the office of Mayor after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Mayor; providing that a person shall not serve as a Councilmember, either in a ward or at-large, more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years; providing that after completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years, a person may again serve in the office of Councilmember after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Councilmember; providing that time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor or Councilmember for an unexpired term shall not count toward the term limit; and providing that terms of office, or partial terms of office, served as Mayor or Councilmember prior to May 3, 2025 shall not be considered for the purpose of term limits?

AMENDMENT D

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 6 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS TO HOLD OFFICE OF MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS AND OTHER OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 6. – Qualifications to hold office of mayor and councilmembers ~~and other officers and employees; conflict of interests.~~

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be a resident citizens of the City of Brenham, be a qualified voter~~have the qualifications of electors therein~~, be of a minimum age of twenty-one (21) when elected, and shall have been resident citizens of the City of Brenham and any ward they may represent for a period of twelve (12) months immediately preceding such election. Any such officer of the City who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications herein required shall automatically forfeit his office.~~The Mayor, Councilmembers and other officers and employees shall not be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service for the municipality, or interested in the sale to the City of any supplies, equipment, material, or articles purchased. Any officer or employee of the City who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications herein required shall forthwith and ipso facto forfeit his office, and any such contract in which any officer or employee is or may become interested may be declared void by the City Council.~~

AMENDMENT D SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION D

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | Shall Article III, Section 6 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying the qualifications necessary to hold the office of Mayor and Councilmember; clarifying that any Mayor or Councilmember that ceases to possess any of the required qualifications shall automatically forfeit his office; and deleting provisions related to conflicts of interest? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | |

AMENDMENT E

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 8 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING CANVASSING RETURNS AND DECLARING RESULTS OF ELECTION AND JUDGES OF ITS OWN ELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 8. - Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own ~~election and qualification.~~

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered forthwith by the Election Judges to the City Secretary. The Council shall canvass the returns; investigate the qualifications of the candidates, and declare the official results of the election in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by Ward totals, when applicable. At each election the qualified person receiving a majority of all votes cast for the office that person seeks shall thereon be declared elected by said Council.

The City Council shall be judges of the ~~election and the Council's qualifications~~ of its members, and the Council's determination shall be conclusive and final for all purposes.

AMENDMENT E SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION E

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | Shall Article III, Section 8 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying that members of the City Council do not serve as Election Judges, as that position is defined in Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code, in any election held by the City? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | |

AMENDMENT F

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 9 AND 11 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING REGULAR ELECTION DAYS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 9. - Regular election days.

The regular municipal elections of the City of Brenham shall be held on the ~~second Saturday~~ uniform election date in May in odd-numbered years or any other uniform election date as authorized by law.

Sec. 11. - Special elections; state election laws control elections.

All elections provided for in this Charter, except the regular election of Councilmembers held on the uniform election date ~~second Saturday~~ in May of odd-numbered years or on any other date as authorized by law, shall be called special elections, and all elections shall be conducted and results canvassed and announced by the election authorities as prescribed by the general election laws of the State of Texas relating to cities and towns, and said general election laws shall control in all municipal elections, except as otherwise herein provided.

AMENDMENT F SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION F

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | Shall Article III, Sections 9 and 11 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the regular municipal elections of the City shall be held on the uniform election date in May of odd-numbered years, or on any other uniform election date authorized by law? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | |

AMENDMENT G

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 10 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING RUNOFF ELECTIONS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 10. – Runoff elections.

In the event any candidate for the Council (including the Mayor) fails to receive, at any regular or special election, a majority of all votes cast for his particular office, the Mayor or, if he fails to do so, the Council shall no later than the fifth day following the official canvas of the election order a runoff election to be held ~~within thirty (30) days of said canvass~~ in accordance with applicable law.

At said runoff election the two (2) candidates that received the highest number of votes cast for such particular office in the first election, at which no one was elected to such office by receiving a majority of all votes cast for all candidates for such particular office, shall be voted on again.

The candidate who receives the majority of the votes cast for the particular office in the runoff election shall be elected to such office and shall take office as soon thereafter as he is qualified.

In runoffs for the office of Mayor or Councilmembers elected at large, the registered voters of the City as a whole shall vote. In runoffs of Councilmembers for single wards, being any of the Councilmembers from Ward One, Ward Two, Ward Three or Ward Four, only those registered voters in the particular ward shall vote in the runoff election for that particular position.

AMENDMENT G SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION G

- ☐ YES Shall Article III, Section 10 of the Brenham City Charter be amended
☐ NO by providing that all City Council runoff elections shall be held in
accordance with applicable law?

AMENDMENT H

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 13 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS AND HOLDING OTHER MEETINGS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 13. - Organizational meeting; holding other meetings.

Within fourteen (14) days after the election of the Councilmembers, whether a regular election or runoff election, the City Council shall meet in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, at which time the Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their offices. Thereafter the City Council shall meet at such time as prescribed by ordinance or resolution, but they shall meet at least once each month.

AMENDMENT H SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION H

- ☐ YES Shall Article III, Section 13 of the Brenham City Charter be amended
☐ NO by providing that the City Council shall meet within fourteen (14) days
after an election, whether a regular election or runoff election, at which
time Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their
offices?

AMENDMENT I

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 14 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILMEMBER SALARIES BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 14. - Salaries.

The Mayor shall receive a salary of five hundred fifty ~~two hundred seventy-five~~ dollars ~~(\$550.00)~~~~(\$275.00)~~ per month and each Councilmember shall receive a salary of four hundred ~~fifty two hundred twenty-five~~ dollars ~~(\$450.00)~~~~(\$225.00)~~ per month.

AMENDMENT I SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION I

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article III, Section 14 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the Mayor's salary shall be changed from two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) per month to five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) per month, and each Councilmember's salary shall be changed from two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) per month to four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per month?

AMENDMENT J

SHALL ARTICLE III, SECTION 23 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER BE AMENDED TO ADD PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AS FOLLOWS?

Secs. 23, 24. – Reserved Conflicts of Interest.

The Mayor, Councilmembers and other officers and employees, with regard to any contract or other matter authorized by the City, shall comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest of local public officials.

AMENDMENT J SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION J

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article III, Section 23 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by requiring the Mayor, City Councilmembers and other officers and employees of the City, with regard to any contract or other matter authorized by the City, to comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest of local public officials?

AMENDMENT K

SHALL ARTICLE VII, SECTION 7 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER BE AMENDED TO REFLECT CURRENT PROCEDURES RELATED TO OFFICIAL BONDS AS FOLLOWS?

Sec. 7. - Official bonds.

The person exercising the duties of the City Tax Collector shall give an official bond in such sum as may be prescribed by the City ~~Manager~~Council from time to time; such bond shall be payable to the City of Brenham and shall, in each instance, be conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of such officer, and for the faithful accounting of all moneys, claims and things of value coming into the hands of such officer. Such bond shall be procured from some regular accredited surety company authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Texas, and the premiums to such surety company shall be paid by the City of Brenham, provided that the City Council may by ordinance, require official bonds from any other appointive officers of the City in such amounts and conditioned as they may deem best for the efficiency of the public service. All official bonds shall be surety company bonds and shall be approved by the City ~~Manager~~Council and filed and recorded with the person exercising the duties of City Secretary.

AMENDMENT K SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION K

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article VII, Section 7 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that with regard to official bonds of certain officers of the City, the City Manager, rather than the City Council, shall determine the amounts of and approve said bonds?

AMENDMENT L

SHALL ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1 OF THE BRENHAM CITY CHARTER REGARDING THE CITY MANAGER'S RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS?

Sec. 1. - Appointment; position; qualifications; removal.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager, who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. He shall be chosen upon qualification and fitness for the exercise of his duties. He may or may not be a resident of the City of Brenham when appointed but shall establish his residence within Washington County, Texas~~the City~~ as directed by the City Council. The City Council may engage a City Manager by agreement for a term not to exceed one year; however, the City Manager is subject to removal at any time, with or without cause, by City Council.

AMENDMENT L SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN THE FORM OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION:

PROPOSITION L

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | Shall Article IV, Section 1 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the City Manager shall establish his residence within Washington County, Texas as directed by the City Council? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | |

SECTION 2. **SAVINGS CLAUSE**

All provisions of any ordinance, resolution or other action of the City in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent they are in conflict. Any remaining portions of said ordinances, resolutions or other actions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. **SEVERABILITY**

Should any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is expressly provided that any and all remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentences and clauses and phrases remaining should any provision be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION 4.
REPEALER

Any other ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby expressly repealed.

SECTION 5.
EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication as required by law.

SECTION 6.
PROPER NOTICE AND MEETINGS

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meetings at which this Ordinance was passed were open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meetings were given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

PASSED AND APPROVED on its first reading the 3rd day of April, 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED on its second reading the 17th day of April, 2025.

Atwood C. Kenjura
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary



2025 GENERAL ELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated April 7, 2025

We encourage you to explore our website for more detailed information on elections and voting in Texas. We hope you find these questions useful, and we appreciate this opportunity to assist you with your election questions.

Note: We have grouped questions and answers in categories and provided links to additional information when needed.

Who Can Vote In a City of Brenham Election?

Q: I work in the City. Am I eligible to vote in the City election?

A: Unfortunately, working in the City does not make you eligible to vote in a city election.

Q: I own rental property in the City. Am I eligible to vote in the City election?

A: In short, you must be a registered voter within the city limits of Brenham. Simply owning property within the city limits does not qualify you to vote in a City election. To be qualified to vote in the City election, a person must:

1. Be 18 years of age or older on the day of the election;
2. Be a citizen of the United States;
3. Not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:
 - a. Totally mentally incapacitated; or
 - b. Partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;
4. Not have been fully convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, must have:
 - a. Fully discharged his sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation order by any court; or
 - b. Been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote; and
5. Be a registered voter within the city limits of Brenham for more than 30 days prior to the day of the election.

Checking Voter Registration Status, Getting Registered for the First Time, or Making Changes to Your Current Registration

Q: I'm not sure if I'm registered; how can I confirm my voter registration status?

A: You can confirm your registration status by going to the Texas Secretary of State's website at <https://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote> or by calling your local voter registrar's office in the county where you live.

Q: I'm not registered, but I want to vote in the May election; what is the deadline to register?

A: The deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the May 3, 2025 General Election is April 3, 2025.

Q: If I submit my registration by the deadline, what happens next?

A: Your voter registration becomes effective thirty (30) days after it is accepted by the voter registrar in your county. Once your registration is accepted by the voter registrar, your voter registration certificate will be generated and mailed to the address you provided on your application. Once you receive your certificate, be sure to read the information on the back of the certificate, sign by the "X" on the front of the card.

Q: I am registered to vote, but I moved this past year. Is there anything I need to do to make sure that I won't have a problem voting in May?

A: If you moved "**within the same county/city**" you must file your new address information in writing with the county voter registrar. The last day to make a change of address that will be effective for the May election is April 3, 2025. If you miss this deadline, you may return to your old precinct to vote; however, you will be required to complete a "statement of residence" indicating your new address.

If you moved to a "**different county/city**" you must register with the voter registrar in your new county of residence. The deadline to register is April 3, 2025. If you miss the deadline, you can still vote in the new county/city using other methods as provided by State law.

Q: I don't remember seeing my certificate lately. Is that a problem? Don't I just stay registered?

A: New certificates are mailed out every two years to the most recent address you provided to the voter registrar. If you do not recall receiving a new blue and white voter registration certificate, you may contact the voter registrar in your County to verify your registration status. If you did not receive your certificate because you moved to a new county, you will need to re-register with the voter registrar in your new county.

Voting Without a Certificate - Voting Early - Election Day Voting

Q: I can't find my voter certificate/card. Will I be able to vote without it?

A: Yes, but you must have a valid, government issued, form of photo ID.

Q: Can anybody vote early in person, or only those people who are going to be out of town on Election Day? What are the dates and hours for voting early in person?

A: Any voter that is registered within Washington County and the City of Brenham may vote early by personal appearance (in person). Early voting by personal appearance for the May 3, 2025 General Election begins on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 and ends on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. The hours of early voting will be each weekday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be no Early Voting on Saturday, April 26th or Sunday, April 27th.

Q: Where do I go to early vote?

A: Early voting will be held in the Washington County Courthouse Annex Building, 100 S. Park Street, Brenham, Texas.

Q: Can anybody vote early by mail (also referred to as absentee voting)?

A: Only specific reasons entitle a registered voter to vote early by mail (absentee voting). Voters may only vote by mail if they:

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting; or
- are sick or disabled; or
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- are confined in jail; or
- are expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day.

Q: I meet one of the requirements shown above to vote early by mail. What do I do now? Are there deadlines connected with this procedure?

A: You must request an Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) from the Washington County Elections and Voter Registrar's Office. Complete the ABBM form and return it to the Voter Registrar at 100 E. Main St., Suite 105, Brenham, TX 77833. The last day to submit an ABBM is April 22, 2025 by 5:00 p.m. Please note that the ABBM must be delivered in person by the requestor unless other delivery methods are allowed by law.

ELECTION DAY

Q: It's Election Day, I'm registered and ready to vote. Where do I go? What are the hours for voting on Election Day?

A: On Election Day, you will need to vote in the Ward in which you live, the polling locations are as follows:

Ward 1: Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
 100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway
 Brenham., Texas

Ward 2: Washington County Event Center
 1305 E. Blue Bell Rd.
 Brenham, Texas

Ward 3: Brenham VFW Hall
1200 E. Tom Green Street
Brenham, Texas

Ward 4: Blinn Junior College Student Center
1007 Walter Schwartz Way
Brenham, Texas

If you do not know which polling location you vote at, look at your voter registration card in the block labeled CITY and it will tell you which ward you vote in. You can also look up your ward on the City's website (www.cityofbrenham.org). The hours of voting on Election Day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Q: What do I need to take with me on Election Day to the polls?

A: You must take one of the following forms of identification:

- Texas Driver's license,
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS,
- Texas Personal Identification Card
- Texas Handgun License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety;
- United States Military Identification Card containing your photograph;
- United States citizenship certificate containing your photograph; or
- United States Passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, for ages 18-69, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. Voters 70 or over, may present an acceptable photo ID that is expired for any length of time if.

Other exemptions to the photo voter identification requirement which are subjected to other provisions:

- Voters with consistent religious objection to being photographed
- Voters who do not have any photo identification due to a natural disaster as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor

These voters may cast a provisional ballot at the polls, appear at the voter registrar's office within six (6) days after election day to sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for the voter's ballot to be counted.

Alternatively, a voter who possess an acceptable form of photo ID but does not have it at the polling place or does not possess an acceptable form of photo ID, and is able to obtain one, may choose to leave the polling place, and return before the polls close with an acceptable form of ID. The voter may also choose to vote provisionally and cure their ballot within six working days after the election. Voter must submit proof of ID at their voter registrar's office within six (6) days..

Q: What if I do not possess one of the acceptable forms of ID named above?

A: You may complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present one of the following forms of supporting ID:

- Copy or original of a government document that shows the voter's name and address, including the voter registration certification; or
- Copy of or original current utility bill; or
- Copy of or original bank statement; or
- Copy of or original government check; or
- Copy of or original paycheck; or
- Copy of or original of (a) a certified domestic (from a U. S. State or territory) birth certificate or (b) document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes your identity (which may also include a foreign birth).

Provisional Voting

Provisional voting is designed to allow a voter whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters or has not brought a valid photo ID to the poll to cast a ballot. If a voter is voting provisional, they will have up to six (6) days to present a valid ID to the voter registrar at 100 E. Main Street, Suite 105, Brenham, TX to cure their ballot for counting. Provisional voters will receive written notice by the tenth (10th) day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballot was counted. If it was not counted, the notice will indicate the reason why.

MILITARY & OVERSEAS VOTERS

Military and overseas voters should use the Federal Postcard Application found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at <https://fvap.gov/texas>.

VOTERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Please visit the Texas Secretary of State's website at <http://www.votetexas.gov> to ensure that you are fully informed on the services available to you.

STUDENT VOTERS

Information regarding student voters is available on the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.votetexas.gov>

CONVICTED FELONS AND VOTING

In Texas, a convicted felon regains the right to vote after completing his or her sentence. Therefore, once you have completed the punishment phase (including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by the court), you would be eligible to register and vote in the state of Texas.



WHERE DO I VOTE?

EARLY VOTING

During Early Voting (April 22, 2025 thru April 29, 2025) you may vote at:

**Washington County Annex Building
100 S. Park Street
Brenham, TX.**

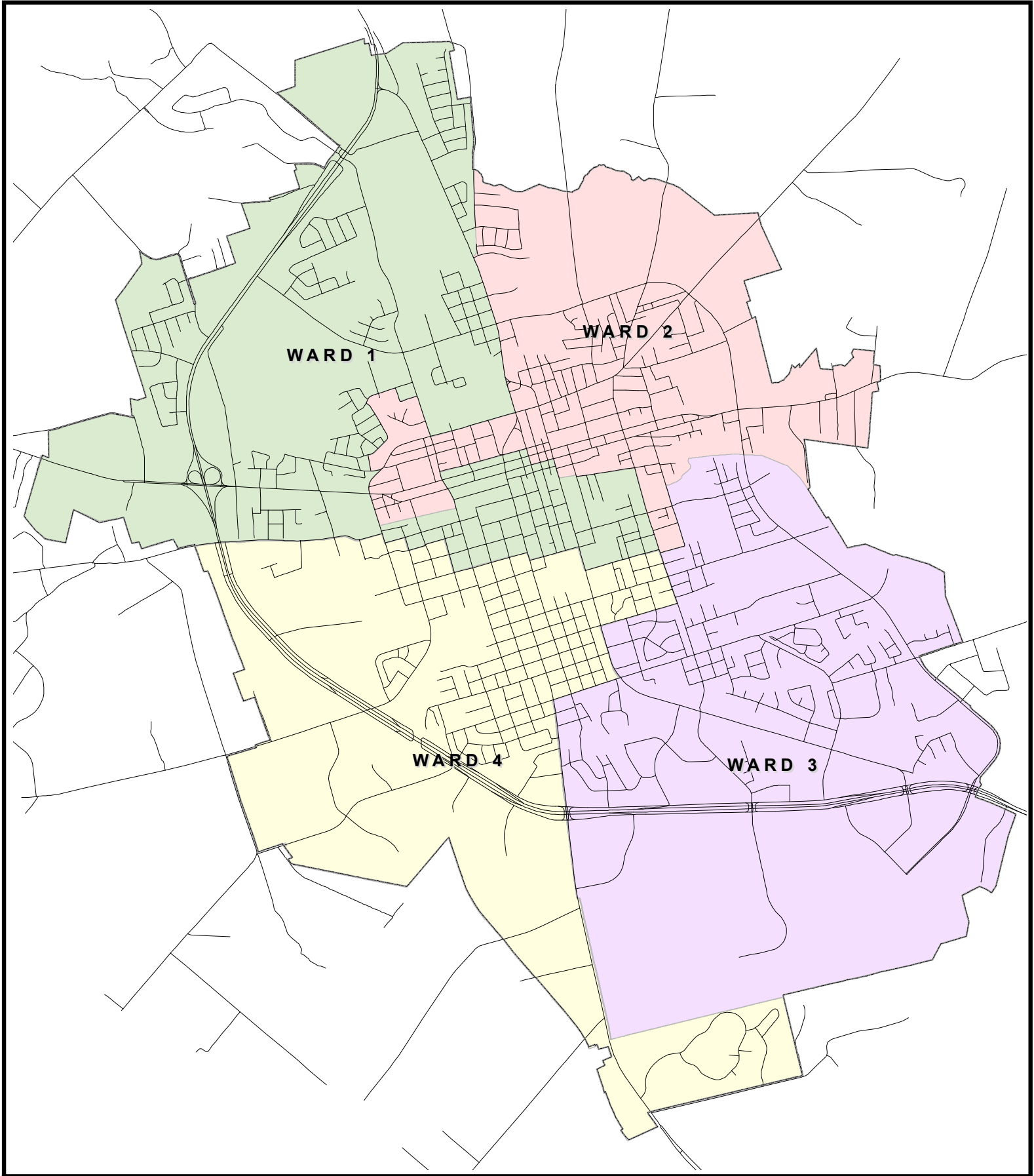
The hours of Early Voting will be Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be no Early Voting on Saturday, April 26th or Sunday, April 27th.

ELECTION DAY

On Election Day, May 3, 2025, you will need to vote in the Ward in which you live, the Election Day polling locations are:

- Ward 1: Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
100 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy.
Brenham, Texas
- Ward 2: Washington County Event Center
1305 E. Blue Bell Road
Brenham, Texas
- Ward 3: Brenham VFW Hall
1200 E. Tom Green Street
Brenham, Texas
- Ward 4: Blinn Junior College Student Center
1007 Walter Schwartz Way
Brenham, Texas

On Election Day **all** of the polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



1 inch = 3,167 feet



City of Brenham Wards



Home Rule Charter Information





What Is A Home Rule Charter?

A Presentation From
The Office of the City Secretary
March, 2025

What Is A Home Rule Charter?

- The Charter is the legal document that establishes a home-rule city's powers and form of government
- The Charter creates the city's governmental structure
- The Charter provides for the distribution of authority and duty among the various branches of the city's government
- More than 350 Texas cities have adopted home rule charters



What Is A Home Rule City?

- Since 1913, Texas cities have belonged to one of five forms of government:
 - Special Law
 - General Law (Type A, B, or C)
 - Home Rule
- Once a City attains more than 5,000 citizens; the citizens can elect for home-rule status (must be approved by the voters)
- In 1920 the citizens of Brenham adopted the City's first home-rule charter; thereby making Brenham a *Home-Rule City*

History of Brenham's Charter

- In 1866, the Texas Legislature granted Brenham a special legislative charter
- On September 7, 1920 the residents of Brenham elected to adopt the City's first Home-Rule Charter
- Since 1920, Brenham's Charter has been amended seven (7) times
- The last Charter amendment was done on May 9, 2015:
 - The voters unanimously approved 24 propositions

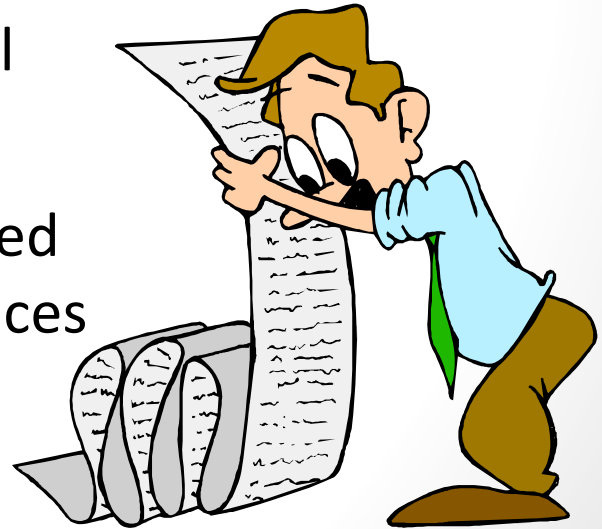


What's In The Charter?

- Establishment of the boundaries of the City limits and provides for Councilmember Wards
- Defines the make-up of City Council (i.e. number, requirements, election dates, terms of office, salary, removal from office, etc.)
- Mandates required City Council meeting dates
- Designates appointive offices (City Manager, City Secretary, City Attorney, Municipal Court Judge and Prosecutor)
- Defines the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager
- Mandates procedures for the adoption of ordinances and resolutions
- Provides authority to levy taxes and issue bonds
- Mandates the annual budget process and other finance-related procedures
- Allows for the ownership, operation and maintenance of all public utilities

Should We Change It?

- The Charter mandates that it be reviewed every 5 years. It was last reviewed in 2020
- Why should it be reviewed every 5 years?
 - Some sections of the Charter may no longer comply with current Federal and/or State laws
 - Some sections may include outdated and/or obsolete language or practices



How Does the Charter Get Changed?

- A comprehensive review is done by the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Secretary
- Any recommended changes are presented to the City Council for discussion, review and final approval – this may take multiple meetings
- The Texas Constitution requires that any change to the Charter be approved by a majority of the voters at an election
- State law requires that each proposed amendment be presented to the voters as a separate proposition on the ballot

[City Election Website](#)



Home Rule Charter

May 15, 2015



**CITY OF BRENHAM
CHARTER**

**ARTICLE I. - INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT;
BOUNDARIES**

Sec. 1. - Incorporation.

The inhabitants of the City of Brenham, in Washington County, Texas, as the boundaries and limits in said City now are or may hereafter be established, shall be and are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the City of Brenham and as such shall have perpetual succession, may use a corporate seal and sue and be sued.

Sec. 2. - Boundaries.

The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to establish the boundary limits of the City of Brenham; and to provide for the alterations and extension of said boundary limits, the annexation of additional territory to the City and the detachment or disannexation of territory, with or without the consent of the owners and inhabitants of the territory annexed, detached or disannexed. The boundaries of the City shall be those established by ordinance of the City Council enacted in accordance with the procedures provided for in applicable federal, state or other law. The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description of the City boundaries, indicating all annexations, detachments and disannexations.

Secs. 3, 4. - Reserved.

ARTICLE II. - POWERS

Sec. 1. - Powers generally.

The said City of Brenham shall have power to ordain and establish such acts, laws, rules, regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of Texas and of this Charter, as shall be needful for the government, interests, health, welfare and good order of said City and its inhabitants. Under the name of the City of Brenham it shall be known in law and have succession and be capable of contracting and being contracted with, suing and being sued, impleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, in all courts and tribunals, and in all amounts whatsoever, subject to the laws of the State of Texas, or which shall hereafter be passed.

The City of Brenham shall have the power to take, hold, lease, grant, purchase and convey such real property or mixed property or estate, situated within, or without, the limits thereof, as the purpose of said corporation may require and shall have and use a corporate seal, and change and renew the same at pleasure.

Sec. 2. - Rights reserved.

All suits, taxes, penalties, fines, forfeiture, and all other rights, claims and demands, of every kind and character, which have accrued under the laws in favor of said City, heretofore in force governing the same, shall belong to and vest in said city and shall not abate by reason of the adoption or amendment of this Charter, and shall be prosecuted and collected for the use and benefit of said City of Brenham and shall not be in any manner affected by the taking effect of this Charter; but as to all of such rights, the laws under which they shall have accrued shall be deemed to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 3. - Local self-government.

The City of Brenham shall possess and may exercise the full power of local self-government. It may hold, by gift, deed, devise, or otherwise, any character of property, including any charitable or trust fund, and subject to and within the limits of superior law may act in perpetual succession as a body politic.

Sec. 4. - Enumerated powers.

For greater certainty, the following are hereby especially enumerated and referred to as being among the other powers which are hereby conferred upon and which may be exercised by the City of Brenham, to-wit:

- A. All of the powers conferred upon cities and towns by Title 22 of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, 1911, except as may hereafter be denied, limited or extended, are hereby conferred upon the City of Brenham as fully and completely as if such powers were herein separately enumerated.
- B. All powers, privileges and immunities conferred upon cities of more than five thousand inhabitants, by Section 4 of Chapter 147, Acts of the 33rd Legislature, General Laws Regular Session, at Page 310 to 316, entitled, "An Act Authorizing Cities Having More Than Five Thousand Inhabitants, by a Majority Vote of the Qualified Voters of said City, at an Election Held for the Purpose to Adopt and Amend their Charters", etc.; and such powers are hereby conferred upon the City of Brenham as fully and completely as if each of said mentioned powers were herein separately enumerated; but enumeration of special powers herein, or in the Statutes referred to, shall not be held or construed to preclude the City from exercising all powers of local government not inhibited by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas, or by special limitations in this Charter contained, the purpose of this Charter being to enlarge upon the power extended by the general laws of cities incorporated thereunder, and to secure to the City of Brenham, all the powers conferred by the Constitution and Laws of this State upon cities having more than five thousand inhabitants.

Secs. 5, 6. - Reserved.

Sec. 7. - Ownership of public utilities.

Said City shall have the power to buy, own, construct, and to maintain and operate, within or without the City limits the following public utilities: water systems, gas systems, electric systems, telephone, radio or television systems, street railways, sewer systems, sewage plants, fertilizing plants, municipal bus or railway terminals, or garbage systems, and to demand and receive compensation for service furnished by the City for private purposes and otherwise, and to have the power to regulate, by ordinance, the collection of compensation for such service. That said City shall have the power to acquire by lease, purchase or condemnation, the property of any person, firm or corporation, now or hereafter conducting any such business, for the purpose of distributing such service throughout the City, or any portion thereof; provided the City shall never purchase or sell any such public utility without first submitting the same to a vote of the qualified voters of the City and further provided that no vote shall be required where the City leases the operation of a public utility to a private party.

Sec. 8. - Manufacture of electricity, gas, etc.; purchase and sale of gas, water, electricity, etc.

Said City shall have the authority to manufacture its own electricity, gas or anything else that may be needed or used by it or the public; to make contracts with any person, firm or corporation for the purchase of gas, water, electricity or any other commodity or articles used by it or the public, and to sell same to the public as may be determined by the governing authority.

Sec. 9. - Operation and maintenance of public utility.

In the event said City shall acquire by purchase, gift, devise, deed, condemnation or otherwise, any water-works system, electric-light or power system, gas system, street-railway system, telephone system, sewer systems, garbage collection or any other public service utility to operate and maintain for the purpose of serving the inhabitants of said City, the right to operate and maintain such public service utility so acquired shall be exclusive as Council may provide by ordinance.

Sec. 10. - Powers of local self-government.

It is contemplated and intended by the adoption of this Charter to confer, and is hereby conferred, upon the City of Brenham, the full power of local self-government and the enumeration of and reference to the powers hereinabove made, or that hereinafter may be made, shall never be construed to preclude, by implication or otherwise, the said City of Brenham from exercising any and all powers incident to the full enjoyment of local self-government provided that such powers shall not be inhibited by the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Sec. 11. - Reserved.

ARTICLE III. - THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 1. - Appointive offices.

All officers and employees of the City except City Council shall be appointive, be employed at-will, and subject to employment contract or personnel policies as Council may provide for each office or position. The City Council shall appoint the City Manager, City Secretary, Deputy City Secretary(ies), Municipal Court Judge, Associate Municipal Court Judge(s), City Attorney, Municipal Court Prosecutor, and any other officer or employee whose appoint must be made by the City Council in accordance with this Charter, City ordinance, or other applicable law.

Sec. 2. - Powers generally.

All legislative powers of the City shall be vested, subject to the terms of this Charter and the Constitution of the State of Texas, in the City Council; and no Councilmember shall exercise any administrative powers or be the head of any department.

Sec. 3. - Appointment of city manager.

The City Council shall appoint a chief administrative officer to be known as the "City Manager," with duties and powers hereinafter provided.

Sec. 4. - Terms of office.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall serve for a term of four (4) years, beginning with the first meeting of the City Council following their election until the later of the first meeting of the City Council following the regular election four (4) years later or their successor has been elected and duly qualified.

Sec. 5. - Filling city council vacancies by appointment or special election.

Vacancies in the City Council arising from resignation, forfeiture, removal, recall, death, or any cause shall be filled by majority vote of the qualified voters at a special election called for such purpose within one hundred and twenty (120) days after such vacancy or vacancies occur. If any such vacancy shall occur within one hundred twenty (120) days preceding a regular election, then the special election to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term shall be held on the same date as the next regular election. Additionally, if the remaining unexpired term of the vacant Council position is twelve (12) months or less, then no special election to fill the vacancy shall be held and the vacant Council position shall be filled by appointment by the remaining Councilmembers, and the appointed Councilmember shall serve until the next regular City election for the vacant Council position. Appointed Councilmembers shall have the same qualifications as an elected Councilmember.

Sec. 6. - Qualifications to hold office of mayor, councilmembers and other officers and employees; conflict of interests.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be resident citizens of the City of Brenham, have the qualifications of electors therein, be of a minimum age of twenty-one (21) when elected, and shall have been resident citizens of the City of Brenham and any ward they may represent for a period of twelve (12) months immediately preceding such election. The Mayor, Councilmembers and other officers and employees shall not be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service for the municipality, or interested in the sale to the City of any supplies, equipment, material, or articles purchased. Any officer or employee of the City who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications herein required shall forthwith and ipso facto forfeit his office, and any such contract in which any officer or employee is or may become interested may be declared void by the City Council.

Sec. 7. - Elective positions.

The elective officers of the City shall consist of the seven (7) Councilmembers as follows: The Mayor and the two (2) other Councilmembers elected from the City at large (these two (2) other Councilmembers' positions being designated as Councilmember, Place Five-at-Large, and Councilmember, Place Six-at-Large); and a Councilmember elected from each of the four (4) wards of the City as hereinafter established (these Councilmembers to be designated as Councilmember, Place One-Ward One, Councilmember, Place Two-Ward Two, Councilmember, Place Three-Ward Three, and Councilmember, Place Four-Ward Four) each of whom shall be elected to the office for which he is a candidate by the qualified voters of that particular ward.

Sec. 8. - Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own election and qualification.

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered forthwith by the Election Judges to the City Secretary. The Council shall canvass the returns; investigate the qualifications of the candidates, and declare the official results of the election in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by Ward totals, when applicable. At each election the qualified person receiving a majority of all votes cast for the office that person seeks shall thereon be declared elected by said Council.

The City Council shall be judges of the election and the Council's qualification of its members shall be conclusive and final for all purposes.

Sec. 9. - Regular election days.

The regular municipal elections of the City of Brenham shall be held on the second Saturday in May in odd-numbered years or any other date as authorized by law.

Sec. 10. - Runoff elections.

In the event any candidate for the Council (including the Mayor) fails to receive, at any regular or special election, a majority of all votes cast for his particular office, the Mayor or, if he fails to do so, the Council shall no later than the fifth day following the official canvass of the election order a runoff election to be held within thirty (30) days of said canvass.

At said runoff election the two (2) candidates that received the highest number of votes cast for such particular office in the first election, at which no one was elected to such office by receiving a majority of all votes cast for all candidates for such particular office, shall be voted on again.

The candidate who receives the majority of the votes cast for the particular office in the runoff election shall be elected to such office and shall take office as soon thereafter as he is qualified.

In runoffs for the office of Mayor or Councilmembers elected at large, the registered voters of the City as a whole shall vote. In runoffs of Councilmembers for single wards, being any of the Councilmembers from Ward One, Ward Two, Ward Three or Ward Four, only those registered voters in the particular ward shall vote in the runoff election for that particular position.

Sec. 11. - Special elections; state election laws control elections.

All elections provided for in this Charter, except the regular election of Councilmembers held on the second Saturday in May of odd-numbered years or on any other date as authorized by law, shall be called special elections, and all elections shall be conducted and results canvassed and announced by the election authorities as prescribed by the general election laws of the State of Texas relating to cities and towns, and said general election laws shall control in all municipal elections, except as otherwise herein provided.

Sec. 12. - General powers and duties of mayor; mayor pro tempore.

The Mayor of the City shall be the presiding officer of the City Council. He shall vote as a member of the City Council on all matters coming before the body; sign all bonds, warrants and other official documents; be the official head of the City, and exercise all powers and perform all duties imposed upon him by this Charter and by the ordinances of the City, and resolutions of the City Council.

The City Council shall elect one of their number as Mayor pro tempore, as soon as practicable after each regular election of Councilmembers, who in the absence or inability of the Mayor to act, may exercise all the powers and authority appertaining to the office of Mayor.

Sec. 13. - Organizational meeting; holding other meetings.

Within fourteen (14) days after the election of the Councilmembers, the City Council shall meet in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, at which time the Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their offices. Thereafter the City Council shall meet at such time as prescribed by ordinance or resolution, but they shall meet at least once each month.

Sec. 14. - Salaries.

The Mayor shall receive a salary of two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) per month and each Councilmember shall receive a salary of two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) per month.

Sec. 15. - Calling special meetings; determining rules and order of business; journal; quorum; voting on measures.

The Mayor or any three (3) Councilmembers may call special meetings of the City Council at any time deemed advisable. The City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business, and shall keep a journal of the proceedings in a permanently bound book and any citizen shall have access to the minutes and record thereof at all reasonable times. Any four (4) members of the City Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, and the affirmative vote of the four (4) members of the City Council shall be sufficient and necessary to adopt or repeal any ordinance or resolution. The vote upon the passage or repeal of any ordinance or resolution shall be taken by "yea" or "nay" vote, and entered upon the journal. Except when required by law to abstain from voting on a matter before the City Council, each member of the City Council present at the meeting shall vote upon every question, ordinance or resolution which shall be entered upon the journal. Any Councilmember refusing to vote except when required by law to abstain shall be entered on the journal as voting in the affirmative.

Sec. 16. - Signing, attesting and sealing ordinances and resolutions.

Every ordinance or resolution passed by the City Council shall be signed by the Mayor, and attested by the person acting as City Secretary and the seal of the City impressed thereon within ten (10) days after its passage.

Sec. 17. - Introduction and passage of ordinances and resolutions.

Each proposed ordinance or resolution shall be introduced in written or printed form, shall not contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly stated in the title; but general appropriation ordinances may contain the various subjects and accounts for which moneys are to be appropriated. No ordinance, unless it shall be declared to be an emergency measure, and passed by a unanimous vote to the City Council, shall be passed on the day on which it shall be introduced. All ordinances, save and except emergency ordinances, shall be finally passed on the second reading. Ordinances not required to be published shall take effect and be in force from and after the passage thereof, unless otherwise provided.

Sec. 18. - Emergency measures.

An emergency measure is an ordinance or resolution for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health or safety, or providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department, in which the emergency is set forth and defined in a preamble thereto. Ordinances appropriating money and ordinances for the payment of salaries and wages may be passed as emergency measures, but no measure making a grant, renewal or extension of a franchise, or other special privilege or regulating the rate to be charged for its services by any utility, shall ever be passed as an emergency measure.

Sec. 19. - Publication of penal ordinances.

The City Secretary shall publish, in a newspaper of general circulation within the City, any ordinances required by state or federal law to be published. The City Secretary may abbreviate the text of any ordinance for publication purposes. Such ordinances shall take effect upon the date of publication unless otherwise required by law or stated in the ordinance, provided that emergency measures shall take effect according to their terms.

Sec. 20. - Style of ordinances.

The style of all ordinances of the City of Brenham shall be: "BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRENHAM," but the same may be omitted when published in book or pamphlet form.

Sec. 21. - Recording and authenticating documents.

The City Council shall appoint a City Secretary who shall be responsible for the original documentation of all laws, notices, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, and related official records of the governing body; all deeds, easements, leases, titles and related documents of ownership of City property, and the municipal charter and seal. Every ordinance or resolution, upon its becoming effective, shall be kept in the permanent files of the City and shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and the City Secretary, or in their absence, the person exercising their duties as appointed by the City Council.

Sec. 22. - Forfeiture and removal from office.

Any Councilmember who is convicted of a felony shall forfeit his office. Any Councilmember who is absent from three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled Council meetings may be removed from office upon the affirmative vote of five (5) councilmembers.

Secs. 23, 24. - Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. - THE CITY MANAGER; FINANCES

Sec. 1. - Appointment; position; qualifications; removal.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager, who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. He shall be chosen upon qualification and fitness for the exercise of his duties. He may or may not be a resident of the City of Brenham when appointed, but shall establish his residence within the City as directed by the City Council. The City Council may engage a City Manager by agreement for a term not to exceed one year; however, the City Manager is subject to removal at any time, with or without cause, by City Council.

Sec. 2. - Duties generally.

Except as provided in Article III, section 1 of the Charter or other applicable law, the City Manager or the City Manager's designee shall appoint all officers and employees of the City. The City Manager shall exercise control and supervision over all departments and offices that may be created by the City Council or City Manager and all officers and employees appointed by him. He shall attend all meetings of the City Council with the right to take part in the discussion, but having no vote. He shall recommend in writing to the City Council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient. He shall keep the City Council fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or which may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the City Council.

The City Manager may create and consolidate appointive offices and positions, may divide the administration of the City's affairs into such departments as he may deem advisable, and may discontinue any such appointive office, position, or department at his discretion, except the office of the City Manager, City Secretary, Deputy City Secretary(ies), Municipal Court Judge, Associate Municipal Court Judge(s), City Attorney and Municipal Court Prosecutor.

Sec. 3. - Annual budget.

The annual budget of the City shall be prepared by the City Manager based on the estimates of each department. These departmental estimates shall include the expenses of the department for the preceding year and indicate where increases or diminutions are recommended for the ensuing year. The City Manager shall submit the budget to the City Council for approval.

Sec. 4. - Keeping of accounts and financial records.

The City's accounts shall be kept in such a manner as to show fully at all times the financial condition of the City, and the financial records shall at all times be available to the public for inspection.

Sec. 5. - Accounting procedure.

Accounting procedure shall be devised and maintained for the City, adequate to record in detail all transactions affecting the acquisition, custodianship and disposition of the City's assets, including cash receipts, credit transactions and disbursements; and the recorded facts shall be presented periodically to the City Council and to the public in such summaries and analytical schedules in detailed support thereof as shall be necessary to show the full effect of such transactions for each fiscal year upon the finances of the City and in relation to each department of the City government, including distinct summaries and schedules for each public utility owned and operated.

Sec. 6. - Audit.

The City Council shall cause an audit of the books of account, and of all records and transactions of the administration of the affairs of the City; such audit shall be made annually embracing each fiscal year and shall be made by an accountant to be selected by the Council. The duty of the accountant shall include the certification of all statements required in section 5 herein; summaries of income and expenditures and also comparison, on proper classification, with the last previous audit; such summaries shall be filed with the City Secretary for public inspection within ten (10) days after the completion of such audit.

Sec. 7. - Fixing and determining salaries and wages.

The City Manager shall fix and determine the salaries and wages of all appointive officers and employees of the City, unless otherwise provided in this Charter, and shall provide for the payment thereof.

Sec. 8. - Issuance of checks for payroll and other claims.

No check for the payment of payroll or of any claim shall be issued by the City unless such claims shall be evidenced by an itemized account, in accordance with approved City Budget including amendments, approved by the signature of the City Manager or his designee, and all checks shall be signed by any two of the following: Mayor, City Secretary, City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer.

Sec. 9. - Payroll.

The payroll of the City shall be approved by the City Manager or his designee before any checks are issued. Payroll shall be made in accordance with the annual City budget.

ARTICLE V. - IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Sec. 1. - Purpose.

The City shall have the right and power to borrow money upon the credit of the City and to issue bonds of the City therefor, in such sum or sums as may be deemed expedient, for the purpose of improving the streets, purchasing or constructing sewers, erecting and maintaining public buildings of every kind and for purchasing or constructing waterworks and gas plants and systems and for the purpose of purchasing, erecting, maintaining and operating an electric light and power plant and such other public utilities as the governing authority may, from time to time, deem expedient, and for any other purpose authorized by state law.

Sec. 2. - Specifying purpose; sale; interest and sinking fund.

All bonds shall specify for what purpose they are issued, and shall be sold for cash. When any bonds are issued by the City a fund shall be provided to pay the interest on those bonds and create a sinking fund to redeem said bonds. Said fund shall not be diverted or drawn upon for any other purpose, and the custodian of the funds of the City shall honor no drafts upon said fund except to pay interest upon or redeem the bonds for which it was provided. The City shall have the power to invest said sinking funds in securities secured by the pledge of United States Bonds or Federal Agency Bonds, Texas State or County Bonds, or Bonds of the City of Brenham, or other municipality, or any school district, or any other investment authorized by state law.

Sec. 3. - Maximum period; signing; specifying places and times of payment; approval by state officials; issuance.

Said bonds shall be issued for a period of time not to exceed forty (40) years; shall be signed by the Mayor, countersigned by the person acting in the capacity of City Secretary, and both principal and interest shall be payable at such places and times as may be fixed by the ordinance of the governing authority. All such bonds shall be submitted to the Attorney-General of the State for his approval and the Comptroller for registration, as provided by the State law; provided, that any such bonds, after approved, may be issued by the City, either optional or serial, or otherwise, as may be deemed advisable by the governing authority.

Sec. 4. - Submitting to referendum.

Before the issuance of any bonds the same shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the City as required by the General Laws of the State.

ARTICLE VI. - TAXATION

Sec. 1. - Authority for annual levy generally.

Until otherwise provided by ordinance adopted in the manner provided in section 2 hereof, the City Council shall have the power and is hereby authorized, annually, to levy and collect taxes on the assessed valuation of all real estate, personal and mixed property within the City limits, not exempt from taxation by the Constitution and laws of this State, not exceeding one and sixty-five one hundredths dollars (\$1.65) on the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) valuation for any one year for all purposes.

Sec. 2. - Ordinance raising tax rate; election.

The City Council shall have the power and is hereby authorized at any time to propose an ordinance for the levy and collection of taxes on the assessed valuation of all property within the corporate limits of the City not exempt from taxation by the Constitution and laws of this State at a greater rate on the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) valuation than that provided in section 1 hereof not to exceed the rate allowed by the Constitution and laws of this State, which proposed ordinance shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection at an election held for that purpose. Said election shall be held on the next authorized election date that allows the City sufficient time to comply with all applicable election laws.

The form of ballot for use in an election held for adoption of such proposed ordinance shall state the title of the ordinance and contain a succinct statement of its nature and purpose and to the left of such statement on separate lines there shall be printed the words:

FOR THE ORDINANCE
AGAINST THE ORDINANCE

If a majority of such voters voting in such election shall vote in favor thereof it shall thereupon become an ordinance of the City.

Sec. 3. - Occupation tax.

The City shall have the power to levy and collect occupation taxes consonant with the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, and shall authorize the granting and issuance of licenses and shall direct the manner of issuing and registering the same and fix the fees thereafter, but no license shall be issued for a longer period than one year and shall not be assignable except by permission of the governing authority of the City.

Sec. 4. - Franchise tax; corporation tax.

The City shall have the power, annually, to levy and collect a franchise tax against any person, corporation or other legal entity using and occupying the public streets or grounds of the City, separately from the tangible property of such person, corporation or other legal entity, and to levy and collect, annually, upon the property and shares of corporations, companies and corporate institutions, as the same are now or may be assessed by the State laws and shall have full power to enforce the collection of such taxes.

Sec. 5. - Tax lists, inventories, appraisements, rendition.

The City shall have the power to regulate the manner and mode of making out tax lists, inventories and appraisements of property therein, and to prescribe the oath that shall be administered to each person rendering property for taxation and to prescribe how, when and where property shall be rendered, and to prescribe the number and form of assessment rolls and to adopt such measures as may be deemed advisable to secure the assessment of all property within the City limits and to collect taxes thereon and may provide a fine upon all persons failing, neglecting or refusing to render their property for taxation, and to do any and all things necessary or proper to render effectual the collection of moneys for taxation.

Sec. 6. - Rendition, etc., as to omitted property.

The City shall have the power to provide for the rendition of unrendered property for taxation, and levy and assess taxes thereon annually, and to provide for the rendition, levy and assessment of taxes for previous years on the property omitted from taxation in the manner provided by State law of this State.

Sec. 7. - Property subject to taxation; lien generally.

All real, personal or mixed property held, owned or situated in the City of Brenham shall be liable for all municipal taxes, due by the owner thereof, including taxes on real estate, franchises, personal and mixed property taxes, and all other municipal taxes of whatsoever character. Such municipal taxes are hereby declared to be a lien, charge and encumbrance upon the property so that taxes and special assessments shall be a prior lien to all other claims, sales, assignments, transfers, gifts and judicial writs. Said lien shall exist from the first day of January of each year until all such taxes have been paid; and such lien against any real estate which, for any cause, has failed to be assessed for one or more years shall be good and effective for every year for which assessment has so failed.

Sec. 8. - Liability of personal property.

Personal property of all persons, firms or corporations owing any taxes to the City of Brenham is hereby made liable for all such taxes and subject to seizure and sale, whether the same be upon personal or real property or upon both.

Sec. 9. - Time of levying.

The governing authority of the City, at its first meeting in September of each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable, shall levy the annual tax for such year, but special taxes or assessments allowed by this Charter may be levied, assessed and collected at such times as the governing authority may provide; provided, that should the governing authority fail or neglect to levy the annual tax herein provided for any one year the annual tax levy for the preceding year last made by said governing authority shall and will be considered in force and effect as the tax levy for the year for which no annual tax was made.

Sec. 10. - Providing for collection.

The City shall have full power to provide for the prompt collection, by suit or otherwise, of taxes assessed, levied and imposed, and is hereby authorized, and to that end shall have full power and authority to sell, or cause to be sold, all kinds of property, real and personal, and shall make such rules and regulations and enact all such ordinances as are deemed necessary for the collection of any taxes provided in this Charter.

Sec. 11. - City not required to give bond; payments to city to be in legal currency.

It shall not be necessary in any action, suit or proceeding, in which the City shall be a party, for any bond, undertaking, or security to be executed in behalf of the City. Nothing of value nor anything save money current of the United States shall be received in payment of taxes, fines, forfeitures, penalties and debts due and owing to said City.

Sec. 12. - Control of finances.

The City Council shall have the power to control and manage the finances of the City, to provide its fiscal year arrangements.

Sec. 13. - Disposition of tax money collected.

All moneys arising from the collection of taxes by the City shall be divided into such funds and be designated as such funds as the Council may deem proper.

Sec. 14. - Effect of irregularities in assessment rolls.

No irregularities in the time or manner of making or returning the City assessment rolls or the approval of such rolls shall invalidate any assessment.

Secs. 15—19. - Reserved.

ARTICLE VII. - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 1. - Continuation in effect of existing ordinances, regulations and resolutions-generally.

All ordinances, regulations or resolutions now in the City of Brenham and not in conflict with this Charter shall remain in full force under this Charter until altered, modified or repealed by the City Council of the City of Brenham, herein provided for.

Sec. 2. - Same—Penal ordinances.

All penal ordinances of the present City of Brenham now in force and effect shall remain in full force and effect until repealed by the City Council of the City of Brenham.

Sec. 3. - Debts, etc., prior to charter.

The City of Brenham as herein established hereby assumes all outstanding indebtedness against said City as at present constituted and shall be possessed of and assume all property, right, interests, contracts, debts, franchises, choses in action, equities, taxes and all claims owing to the present City of Brenham.

Sec. 4. - Amending Charter.

This Charter, after adoption, may be amended in accordance with the provisions of applicable state law, as amended.

This Charter shall be reviewed by the City Council or its designee no less than two (2) years, nor more than five (5) years, from the date of the previous charter amendment election.

The City Council may, without approval of the voters, adopt an ordinance that makes the following non-substantive revisions to the Charter:

1. Renumbering, revising titles, and rearranging parts thereof; and
2. Correcting errors in spelling, grammar, cross-references and punctuation.

A formatting or correcting revision adopted by ordinance under this Section is not intended to and is not to be interpreted as making any substantive change in any Charter provision.

Sec. 5. - Severability of Charter provisions.

Should any provision or portion of this Charter be declared unconstitutional by the courts of this State, the remainder thereof shall be unimpaired by such holding and shall be in full force and effect until amended or repealed, as herein provided.

Sec. 6. - Establishment of wards; purpose.

The City shall be divided and established into four (4) wards, having boundaries described by ordinance, for the purpose of securing a more equal distribution of representation on the City Council by the people of the whole City. Newly annexed territory shall be added to the adjacent Ward as City Council may provide. No person shall be a candidate for Councilmember from any ward of the City unless he shall have been, for twelve (12) months preceding the date of the election at which he is a candidate, a resident of the ward represented by the office to which he aspires, and must possess the other qualifications as prescribed in this Charter; provided, however, that the qualifications as to residence in any one ward shall not apply to the Mayor or at-large Councilmembers. Any candidate, Mayor or Councilmember who during his candidacy or term of office moves his place of residence from the City or the ward which he represents ipso facto forfeits his right to such office.

Sec. 7. - Official bonds.

The person exercising the duties of the City Tax Collector shall give an official bond in such sum as may be prescribed by the City Council from time to time; such bond shall be payable to the City of Brenham and shall, in each instance, be conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of such officer, and for the faithful accounting of all moneys, claims and things of value coming into the hands of such officer. Such bond shall be procured from some regular accredited surety company authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Texas, and the premiums to such surety company shall be paid by the City of Brenham, provided that the City Council may by ordinance, require official bonds from any other appointive officers of the City in such amounts and conditioned as they may deem best for the efficiency of the public service. All official bonds shall be surety company bonds and shall be approved by the City Council and filed and recorded with the person exercising the duties of City Secretary.

Sec. 8. - Official oaths.

All elected and appointed officers of the City shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe to the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Sec. 9. - Nepotism.

No person related within the second degree by affinity, or within the third degree by consanguinity, to the Mayor or to any of the Councilmembers, shall be appointed to any office, position, clerkship or service of the City.

Sec. 10. - City property exempt from execution.

No public property or any other character of property owned or held by said City shall be subject to any execution of any kind or nature.

Sec. 11. - City not subject to garnishment proceedings.

No funds of said City shall be subject to garnishment, and the City shall never be required to answer in any garnishment proceedings.

Sec. 12. - Liability and notice of injury or damage claims.

Before the City of Brenham shall be liable for damages of any kind, the person injured or the owner of the damaged property, or someone in his behalf shall give the Mayor or City Councilmembers notice in writing of such injury or damage within ninety (90) days, or within six (6) months for good cause shown, after the same has been received stating specifically in such notice when, where and how the injury or damage occurred and the extent thereof. Failure to notify the Mayor or City Councilmember within the time and manner specified herein shall exonerate, excuse and exempt the City from any liability whatsoever. Further, this section shall not apply to the taking, damaging or destruction of property as guaranteed and covered by Section 17 of Article I of the Constitution of Texas.

Sec. 13. - City depository.

The City Council shall designate a bank or other authorized financial institution in the City of Brenham as the City depository in accordance with applicable state law, which shall be selected for a period not to exceed five (5) years. The City Council shall have the right to reject any and all applications offered as City depository.

Sec. 14. - Court.

The City Council shall establish and provide for a court, designated as the "Municipal Court" for the trial of misdemeanor offenses, with all such jurisdiction, powers, duties as are now, or may hereafter be prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas relative to municipal courts.

The Municipal Court shall be presided over by a Magistrate who shall be known as the Judge of the Municipal Court. The City Council shall provide for the qualifications of the Judge and any Associate Municipal Judge(s). The Judge and any Associate Judge(s) of said court shall be appointed by the City Council to serve a term of office of two (2) years; however, they shall be removable at any time, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the City Council. Any such judge shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Council. In the event a judge is temporarily unable to act for any reason, the Mayor shall appoint a qualified person to temporarily act in the judge's place. In the event a vacancy exists in the office of Judge or Associate Judge for any reason, the City Council, by majority vote, shall appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

There shall be a Municipal Clerk of said court appoint[ed] by the City Manager. The Clerk of said Court shall have the power to administer oaths and affidavits, make certificates, affix the seal of said court thereto, and generally do and perform any and all acts necessary in issuing process of said Court and conducting business thereof. There may be such Deputy Clerks of the Municipal Court as may be authorized and appointed by the City Manager, which Deputy Clerks shall have authority to act for and on behalf of the Clerk of the Municipal Court. Said Municipal Court Clerk and Deputy Clerks shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Manager.

There shall also be an attorney appointed by the City Council to serve as the prosecutor in Municipal Court and said prosecutor shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Council.

Sec. 15. - Council investigations.

The City Council may investigate the financial transactions of any office or department of the City government, and the acts and conduct of any official or employee. In conducting such investigation, the City Council may compel the attendance of witnesses, the production of checks and papers, and other evidence and for that purpose may issue subpoenas or attachments which shall be signed by the Mayor, and which may be served and executed by any officer authorized by law to serve subpoenas or other process, or by any peace officer of the City. If any witness shall refuse to appear to testify to and facts within his knowledge, or to produce any papers or books in his possession, or under his control, relating to the matter under investigation before the City Council, the City Council shall have the power to cause the witness to be punished as for contempt, not exceeding a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). No witness shall be excused from testifying touching his knowledge of the matter under investigation in any such inquiry, but such testimony shall not be used against him in any criminal prosecution except for perjury committed upon such inquiry.

Sec. 16. - Power of initiative.

The people of the City reserve the power of direct legislation by initiative, and in the exercise of such power may propose any ordinance not in conflict of this Charter or the Constitution or the Laws of the State of Texas. Any initiated ordinance may be submitted to the Council by a petition signed by the qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least twenty (20) percent of the qualified voters of the City.

Sec. 17. - Power of referendum.

The people reserve the power to approve or reject at the polls any legislation enacted by the Council which is subject to the initiative process under this Charter. Prior to the effective date of any ordinance or within thirty (30) days after the effective date of any ordinance which is subject to referendum, a petition signed by at least twenty (20) percent of the qualified voters of the City may be filed with the City Secretary requesting that any such ordinance be either repealed or submitted to a vote of the people. When such a petition has been certified as sufficient by the City Secretary, the ordinance specified in the petition shall not go into effect, or further action thereunder shall be suspended if it shall have gone into effect, until and unless it is approved by the voters as herein provided.

Sec. 18. - Form of petitions.

Initiative petition papers shall contain the full text of the proposed legislation in the form of an ordinance including a descriptive caption. Referendum petition papers shall contain a sufficient description of the ordinance sought to be referred to identify it, or if the ordinance has been passed by the Council, the full text of the ordinance sought to be referred shall be included in such petition papers. The signatures to the initiative or referendum petitions need not all be appended to one paper, but each signer shall sign his name in ink or indelible pencil, and shall add to his signature his place of residence by street and number or such other document as may be prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas to identify qualified voters under any future legislation. One of the signers of each separate petition shall make an affidavit that he, and he only, personally circulated such petition and that each signature appended thereto was made in his presence and is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

Sec. 19. - Filing, examination and certification of petitions.

Within thirty (30) days after an initiative or referendum petition is filed, the City Secretary shall determine whether the same is signed by the requisite number of qualified voters. The City Secretary shall declare void any petition paper which does not have an affidavit attached thereto as required in Section 20C of this Article. In examining the petition the Secretary shall write the letters "DV" (declared void) in red ink opposite the names of signatures found not qualified to vote. After completing examination of the petition, the Secretary shall certify the result thereof to the Council at its next regular meeting, stating the number of the persons found on the petition who are qualified to vote and the number of persons found on the petition who [are] not qualified to vote. If the Certificate of the City Secretary shall show an initiative or referendum petition to be insufficient, the Secretary shall notify the persons filing the petition, and it may be amended within ten (10) days from the date of such notice by filing a supplementary petition upon additional papers signed and filed as provided for in original petition. Within ten (10) days after such amendment is filed, the Secretary shall examine the amended petition and certify as to its sufficiency. If the amended petition is found to be insufficient, the Secretary shall return the petition to the person filing the same, without prejudice to the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

Sec. 20. - Council, consideration and submission to voters.

When the Council receives an authorized initiative petition certified by the City Secretary to be sufficient, the Council shall either:

- (a) Pass initiated ordinance without amendment within sixty (60) days after the date of the certification to the Council; or
- (b) Submit said initiated ordinance without amendment to a vote of the qualified voters of the City at a regular or special election to be held within ninety (90) days after the date of the certification to the Council.

When the Council receives an authorized referendum petition certified by the City Secretary to be sufficient, the Council shall reconsider the referred ordinance, and if upon such reconsideration such ordinance is not repealed, it shall be submitted to the voters at a regular or special election to be held not more than ninety (90) days after the date of the certification to the Council by the City Secretary. Special elections on initiated or referred ordinances shall not be held more frequently than once each six (6) months, and no ordinance on the same subject as an initiated ordinance which has been defeated or on the same subject as a referred ordinance which has been approved at any election may be initiated by the voters within two (2) years from the date of such election.

Sec. 21. - Ballot form and results of election.

The ballot used in voting upon an initiated or referred ordinance shall state the caption of the ordinance and below the caption shall set forth on separate lines the words, "FOR THE ORDINANCE" and "AGAINST THE ORDINANCE."

Any number of ordinances may be voted on at the same election in accordance with the provisions of this article. If a majority of those are in favor of the initiated ordinance, it shall thereupon be effective as an ordinance of the city. An ordinance so adopted may be repealed or amended at any time after the expiration of two (2) years by a vote of four-fifths (4/5) of the Councilmembers qualified and serving. A referred ordinance which is rejected by a majority of those voting in a referendum election shall be deemed thereupon repealed and may not be reenacted by the Council for a period of two (2) years.

Sec. 22. - Power of recall.

The people of the City reserve the power to recall any elected official, including the Mayor or other Councilmembers, of the City of Brenham, and may exercise such power by filing with the City Secretary a petition, signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least thirty (30) percent of the qualified voters of the City, demanding the removal of such elective officer or officers in case of the Mayor and other City Councilmembers voted on at large. In case of City Councilmembers elected from particular wards, the petition shall be signed by the qualified voters of the particular ward in number equal to at least thirty (30) percent of the qualified voters of the particular ward, demanding the removal of such elected Councilmember. The petition shall be signed and verified in the manner required for an initiative petition, shall contain a general statement of the grounds for which the removal is sought, and one of the signers of each petition paper shall make an affidavit that the statements therein made are true.

Sec. 23. - Recall election.

Within thirty (30) days after a recall petition is filed, the City Secretary shall examine the same. The provisions regulating examination, certification and amendment of initiative petitions shall apply to recall petitions. If the petition is certified by the City Secretary to be sufficient and the officer or official whose removal is sought does not resign within five (5) days after the certification to the Council, the Council shall order and hold a recall election within not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days from the date of such certification. In case of a removal of a Councilmember representing a particular ward the election would be called as above, but for the particular ward only.

Sec. 24. - Recall ballot.

Ballots used at recall elections shall conform to the following requirements: "1". With respect to each person whose removal is sought the question shall be submitted "shall (show name of officer) be removed from the office of (name of office)?" and "2". Immediately below each such question there shall be printed the two (2) following propositions, one above the other, in the order indicated: "For the recall of (name of officer)". "Against the recall of (name of officer)."

Sec. 25. - Removal of officer.

If a majority of the votes cast at a recall election shall be against removal of the officer named on the ballot, he shall continue in office. If the majority of the votes cast at such election be for the removal of the officer named on the ballot, the Council shall immediately declare his office vacant and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Charter for the filling of vacancies. An officer thus removed shall not be a candidate to succeed himself in any election called to fill the vacancy thereby created. An officer thus removed shall not be eligible to hold office again in the City of Brenham within a period of two (2) years from the date of the recall.

Sec. 26. - Limitation on recall.

No recall petition shall be filed against an officer of the City of Brenham within six (6) months after he takes office, and no officer shall be subjected to more than one recall election during a term of office.

Sec. 27. - Purchasing requirements.

The City shall observe and comply with all applicable purchasing and procurement laws when expending City funds.

Sec. 28. - Savings clause.

If any section, subclause, sentence or phrase of this Charter is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining Charter provisions.

Secs. 29, 30. - Reserved.



Proposition

Ballot Wording

May 3, 2025



CITY OF BRENHAM
BALLOT WORDING – CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION A: Shall Article I, Section 2; Article II, Sections 1, 2 and 8; Article III, Sections 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24; Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 8; Article V, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4; Article VI, Sections 3, 6, 9, 11 and 15-19; and Article VII, Sections 6, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 24 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by 1) making corrections to grammar, spelling and punctuation errors; 2) deleting reserved sections of the Charter throughout all Articles of the Charter and renumbering the sections due to deletions and other revisions as necessitated by other propositions on this ballot that are approved by the voters; and 3) making non-substantive vocabulary changes in order to use modern and consistent terminology, titles, and labels, which shall include but not be limited to, changing the references to members of the governing body from “governing authority” to “City Council”?

PROPOSICIÓN A: Artículo I, Sección 2; Artículo II, Secciones 1, 2 y 8; Artículo III, Secciones 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 y 24; Artículo IV, Secciones 1, 2, 3 y 8; Artículo V, Secciones 1, 2, 3 y 4; Artículo VI, Secciones 3, 6, 9, 11 y 15-19; y el Artículo VII, Secciones 6, 12, 14, 15, 19 y 24 de la Carta de Brenham City se enmienda de la siguiente manera: 1) hacer correcciones a los errores gramaticales, ortográficos y de puntuación; 2) eliminar las secciones reservadas de la Carta en todos los artículos de la Carta y volver a numerar las secciones debido a las supresiones y otras revisiones según lo requieran otras proposiciones en esta boleta electoral que sean aprobadas por los votantes; y 3) hacer cambios no sustantivos en el vocabulario para usar terminología, títulos y etiquetas modernos y consistentes, que incluirán, pero no se limitarán a, cambiar las referencias a los miembros del cuerpo gobernante de "autoridad de gobierno" a "Concejo Municipal"?

PROPOSITION B: Shall Article I, Section 2 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying the authority, procedures and terminology concerning annexation and disannexation of territory to be consistent with applicable federal, state or other law?

PROPOSICIÓN B: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo I, Sección 2 de la Carta de Brenham City aclarando la autoridad, los procedimientos y la terminología concerniente a la anexión y desanexión de territorio para que sea consistente con las leyes federales, estatales u otras leyes federales, estatales u otras leyes aplicables?

PROPOSITION C: Shall Article III, Section 4 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that a person may not serve as Mayor more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office; providing that after completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, a person may again serve in the office of Mayor after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Mayor; providing that a person shall not serve as a Councilmember, either in a ward or at-large, more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office, or twelve (12)

consecutive years; providing that after completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years, a person may again serve in the office of Councilmember after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Councilmember; providing that time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor or Councilmember for an unexpired term shall not count toward the term limit; and providing that terms of office, or partial terms of office, served as Mayor or Councilmember prior to May 3, 2025 shall not be considered for the purpose of term limits?

PROPOSICIÓN C: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo III, Sección 4 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City al establecer que una persona no puede servir como Alcalde más de tres (3) periodos consecutivos elegidos de cuatro (4) años para el cargo; disponiendo que después de completar tres (3) periodos consecutivos de mandato elegido, una persona puede volver a servir en el cargo de Alcalde después de un (1) año completo de no ocupar el cargo de Alcalde; disponiendo que una persona no podrá; servir como miembro del Consejo, ya sea en un distrito o en general, más de tres (3) mandatos consecutivos elegidos de cuatro (4) años, o doce (12) años consecutivos; disponiendo que después de completar tres (3) mandatos electos consecutivos, o doce (12) años consecutivos, una persona puede volver a servir en el cargo de Concejal después de un (1) año completo de no ocupar el cargo de Concejal; disponiendo que el tiempo servido por nombramiento o por elección para llenar una vacante en el cargo de Alcalde o Concejal por un periodo no vencido no contará para el límite de mandato; y disponiendo que los mandatos, o los mandatos parciales, prestados como alcalde o concejal antes del 3 de mayo de 2025 no se considerarán a los efectos de los límites de mandato?

PROPOSITION D: Shall Article III, Section 6 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying the qualifications necessary to hold the office of Mayor and Councilmember; clarifying that any Mayor or Councilmember that ceases to possess any of the required qualifications shall automatically forfeit his office; and deleting provisions related to conflicts of interest?

PROPOSICIÓN D: ¿Debería enmendarse el Artículo III, Sección 6 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City aclarando las calificaciones necesarias para ocupar el cargo de Alcalde y Concejal; aclarando que cualquier Alcalde o Concejal que deje de poseer cualquiera de las calificaciones requeridas perderá automáticamente su cargo; y eliminando las disposiciones relacionadas con los conflictos de intereses?

PROPOSITION E: Shall Article III, Section 8 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying that members of the City Council do not serve as Election Judges, as that position is defined in Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code, in any election held by the City?

PROPOSICIÓN E: ¿Debería enmendarse el Artículo III, Sección 8 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City aclarando que los miembros del Concejo Municipal no sirven como Jueces

Electoral, tal como se define esa posición en el Capítulo 32 del Código Electoral de Texas, en ninguna elección celebrada por la Ciudad?

PROPOSITION F: Shall Article III, Sections 9 and 11 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the regular municipal elections of the City shall be held on the uniform election date in May of odd-numbered years, or on any other uniform election date authorized by law?

PROPOSICIÓN F: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo III, Secciones 9 y 11 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City disponiendo que las elecciones municipales regulares de la Ciudad se llevarán a cabo en la fecha de elección uniforme en mayo de los años impares, o en cualquier otra fecha de elección uniforme autorizada por la ley?

PROPOSITION G: Shall Article III, Section 10 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that all City Council runoff elections shall be held in accordance with applicable law?

PROPOSICIÓN G: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo III, Sección 10 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City al establecer que todas las elecciones de segunda vuelta del Concejo Municipal se llevarán a cabo de acuerdo con la ley aplicable?

PROPOSITION H: Shall Article III, Section 13 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the City Council shall meet within fourteen (14) days after an election, whether a regular election or runoff election, at which time Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their offices?

PROPOSICIÓN H: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo III, Sección 13 de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad de Brenham al establecer que el Concejo Municipal se reunirá dentro de los catorce (14) días posteriores a una elección, ya sea una elección regular o una elección de segunda vuelta, momento en el cual los Concejales electos calificarán y asumirán los deberes de sus cargos?

PROPOSITION I: Shall Article III, Section 14 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the Mayor's salary shall be changed from two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) per month to five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) per month, and each Councilmember's salary shall be changed from two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) per month to four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per month?

PROPOSICIÓN I: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo III, Sección 14 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City disponiendo que el salario del Alcalde se cambiará de doscientos setenta y cinco dólares (\$275.00) por mes a quinientos cincuenta dólares (\$550.00) por mes, y el salario de cada Concejal se cambiará de doscientos veinticinco dólares (\$225.00) por mes a cuatrocientos cincuenta dólares (\$450.00) por mes?

PROPOSITION J: Shall Article III, Section 23 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by requiring the Mayor, City Councilmembers and other officers and employees of the City, with regard to any contract or other matter authorized by the City, to comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest of local public officials?

PROPOSICIÓN J: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo III, Sección 23 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City requiriendo que el Alcalde, los Concejales y otros funcionarios y empleados de la Ciudad, con respecto a cualquier contrato u otro asunto autorizado por la Ciudad, cumplan con el Código de Gobierno Local de Texas y todas las demás leyes aplicables que rigen los conflictos de intereses de los funcionarios públicos locales?

PROPOSITION K: Shall Article VII, Section 7 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that with regard to official bonds of certain officers of the City, the City Manager, rather than the City Council, shall determine the amounts of and approve said bonds?

PROPOSICIÓN K: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo VII, Sección 7 de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad de Brenham disponiendo que con respecto a los bonos oficiales de ciertos funcionarios de la Ciudad, el Administrador de la Ciudad, en lugar del Concejo Municipal, determinará los montos de dichos bonos y los aprobará?

PROPOSITION L: Shall Article IV, Section 1 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the City Manager shall establish his residence within Washington County, Texas as directed by the City Council?

PROPOSICIÓN L: ¿Se debe enmendar el Artículo IV, Sección 1 de la Carta Constitucional de Brenham City al establecer que el Administrador de la Ciudad establecerá su residencia dentro del Condado de Washington, Texas según lo indique el Concejo Municipal?



2025 Proposition Education





City of Brenham Charter Propositions

Voter Education
The Office of the City Secretary
March 10, 2025

Charter Propositions

- There will be a total of 12 Propositions on the May 3, 2025 ballot
- Any changes to correct punctuation, spelling, grammar or modernization of wording are combined into one Proposition (Proposition A)

Proposition A

- **Multiple Articles and Sections**
- Proposition A will include the following corrections:
 - Grammar/spelling/punctuation
 - Modernization of wording
 - Section references and numbering
- These corrections will be done in various sections all throughout the Charter

Proposition B

➤ Article I, Sec. 2. Boundaries

- This amendment clarifies the authority, procedures and terminology concerning annexation and disannexation of territory to be consistent with applicable federal, state or other law.

Proposition C

➤ Article III, Section 4. Terms of Office

- Person may not serve as Mayor or Councilmember more than three (3) consecutive four-year terms
- A person may again serve as Mayor or Councilmember after one (1) entire year of not holding the office
- Time served by appointment or by an election to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term will not count toward the term limit
- Terms of office or partial terms of office prior to May 3, 2025 will not be considered for the purpose of term limits

Proposition D

- Article III, Sec. 6. Qualifications to hold office of mayor, councilmembers and other officers and employees; conflict of interests
 - Clarify the qualifications necessary to hold the office of Mayor and Councilmember
 - Clarify if the Mayor or any Councilmember ceases to possess any of the required qualifications, they shall automatically forfeit their office
 - Move provisions related to conflicts of interest to another Section (Section 23 – see Proposition J)

Proposition E

- Article III, Sec. 8. Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own election and qualification
 - Clarify that members of the City Council do not serve as Election Judges, as that position is defined in Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code, in any election held by the City

Proposition F

- Article III, Sec. 9. Regular election days and Article III, Sec. 11, Special elections; state election laws control elections
 - This amendment clarifies regular municipal elections of the City shall be held on the uniform election date in May of odd-numbered years, or any other uniform election date authorized by law.

Proposition G

➤ Article III, Sec. 10. Runoff elections

- This amendment clarifies that all City Council runoff elections shall be held in accordance with applicable law.

Proposition H

- Article III, Sec. 13. Organizational meeting; holding other meetings
 - Clarify that the City Council shall meet within fourteen (14) days after an election, whether a regular election or runoff election, at which time Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their office

Proposition I

➤ Article III, Sec. 14. Salaries

- Provides that the Mayor's salary shall be changed from \$275.00 per month to \$550.00 per month
- Provides that each Councilmember's salary shall be changed from \$225.00 per month to \$450.00 per month

Proposition J

➤ Article III, Sec. 23. Reserved

- This amendment requires the Mayor, City Councilmembers and other officers and employees of the City, with regard to any contract or other matter authorized by the City, to comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest of local public officials.

Proposition K

➤ Article VII, Sec. 7. Official bonds

- This amendment allows the City Manager, instead of City Council, to set the amount of and approve surety bonds for all appointed officers and employees of the city.

Proposition L

- Article IV, Sec. 1. Appointment; position; qualifications; removal
 - This amendment would allow the City Manager to live anywhere within Washington County, Texas instead of only within Brenham, Texas City Limits; as directed by the City Council.



What's Next?

- Early Voting begins on Tuesday, April 22nd and continues through Tuesday, April 29
 - Early voting polling location will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day
 - Early voting **will not** be held on Saturday, April 26th or Sunday, April 27th
- Election Day is Saturday, May 3rd – all polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

[City Election Website](#)



Proposition A

This is the first of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION A

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article I, Section 2; Article II, Sections 1, 2 and 8; Article III, Sections 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24; Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 8; Article V, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4; Article VI, Sections 3, 6, 9, 11 and 15-19; and Article VII, Sections 6, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 24 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by 1) making corrections to grammar, spelling and punctuation errors; 2) deleting reserved sections of the Charter throughout all Articles of the Charter and renumbering the sections due to deletions and other revisions as necessitated by other propositions on this ballot that are approved by the voters; and 3) making non-substantive vocabulary changes in order to use modern and consistent terminology, titles, and labels, which shall include but not be limited to, changing the references to members of the governing body from "governing authority" to "City Council"?

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition A will amend the Brenham City Charter by: (1) making corrections to grammar, spelling and punctuation errors in various Articles; (2) deleting reserved sections of the Charter and renumbering the sections due to deletions and other revisions necessitate by other propositions on this ballot that are approved by the voters; and (3) making non-substantive vocabulary changes in order to use modern and consistent terminology, titles, and labels, which shall include but not be limited to, changing the references to members of the governing body from "governing authority" to "City Council".

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT; BOUNDARIES

Sec. 2. - Boundaries

The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to establish the boundary limits of the City of Brenham; and to provide for the alterations and extension of said boundary limits, the annexation of additional territory to the City and the detachment or disannexation of territory, with or without the consent of the owners and inhabitants of the territory annexed, detached or disannexed. The boundaries of the City shall be those established by ordinance of the City Council enacted in accordance with the procedures provided for in applicable federal, state or other law. The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description of the City boundaries, indicating all annexations, detachments and disannexations.

ARTICLE II. POWERS

Sec. 1. – Powers generally.

The said City of Brenham shall have power to ordain and establish such acts, laws, rules, regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of Texas and of this Charter, as shall be needful for the government, interests, health, welfare and good order of said City and its inhabitants. Under the name of the City of Brenham it shall be known in law and have succession and be capable of contracting and being contracted with, suing and being sued, impleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, in all courts and tribunals, and in all amounts whatsoever, subject to the laws of the State of Texas, or which shall hereafter be passed.

The City of Brenham shall have the power to take, hold, lease, grant, purchase and convey such real property or mixed property or estate, situated within, or without, the limits thereof, as the purpose of said corporation may require and shall have and use a corporate seal, and change and renew the same at its pleasure.

Sec. 2. – Rights reserved.

All suits, taxes, penalties, fines, forfeiture, and all other rights, claims and demands, of every kind and character, which have accrued under the laws in favor of said City, heretofore in force governing the same, shall belong to and vest in said eCity and shall not abate by reason of the adoption or amendment of this Charter, and shall be prosecuted and collected for the use and benefit of said City of Brenham and shall not be in any manner affected by the taking effect of this Charter; but as to all of such rights, the laws under which they shall have accrued shall be deemed to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. – Manufacture of electricity, gas, etc.; purchase and sale of gas, water, electricity, etc.

Said City shall have the authority to manufacture its own electricity, gas or anything else that may be needed or used by it or the public; to make contracts with any person, firm or corporation for the purchase of gas, water, electricity or any other commodity or articles used by it or the public, and to sell same to the public as may be determined by ~~the governing authority~~ City Council.

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 8. - Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own election and qualification.

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered forthwith by the Election Judges to the City Secretary. The Council shall canvass the returns; investigate the qualifications of the candidates; and declare the official results of the election in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by Ward totals, when applicable. At each election the qualified person receiving a majority of all votes cast for the office that person seeks shall thereon be declared elected by said Council.

The City Council shall be judges of the election and the Council's qualification of its members shall be conclusive and final for all purposes.

Sec. 15. - Calling special meetings; determining rules and order of business; journal; quorum; voting on measures.

The Mayor or any three (3) Councilmembers may call special meetings of the City Council at any time deemed advisable. The City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business; and shall keep a journal of the proceedings in a permanently bound book and any citizen shall have access to the minutes and record thereof at all reasonable times. Any four (4) members of the City Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, and the affirmative vote of the four (4) members of the City Council shall be sufficient and necessary to adopt or repeal any ordinance or resolution. The vote upon the passage or repeal of any ordinance or resolution shall be taken by "yea" or "nay" vote; and entered upon the journal. Except when required by law to abstain from voting on a matter before the City Council, each member of the City Council present at the meeting shall vote upon every question, ordinance or resolution which shall be entered upon the journal. Any Councilmember refusing to vote except when required by law to abstain shall be entered on the journal as voting in the affirmative.

Sec. 17. - Introduction and passage of ordinances and resolutions.

Each proposed ordinance or resolution shall be introduced in written or printed form, shall not contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly stated in the title; but general appropriation ordinances may contain the various subjects and accounts for which moneys are to be appropriated. No ordinance, unless it shall be declared to be an emergency measure, and passed by a unanimous vote ~~to~~of the City Council, shall be passed on the day on which it shall be introduced. All ordinances, save and except emergency ordinances, shall be finally passed on the second reading. Ordinances not required to be published shall take effect and be in force from and after the passage thereof, unless otherwise provided.

Sec. 18. - Emergency measures.

An emergency measure is an ordinance or resolution for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, or safety, or providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department, in which the emergency is set forth and defined in a preamble thereto. Ordinances appropriating money and ordinances for the payment of salaries and wages may be passed as emergency measures, but no measure making a grant, renewal or extension of a franchise, or other special privilege or regulating the rate to be charged for ~~its~~ services by any utility, shall ever be passed as an emergency measure.

Sec. 19. - Publication of penal ordinances.

The City Secretary shall publish, in a newspaper of general circulation within the City, any ordinances required by state or federal law to be published. The City Secretary may abbreviate the text of any ordinance for publication purposes. Such ordinances shall take effect upon the date of publication unless otherwise required by law or stated in the ordinance. Ordinances related to; ~~provided that~~ emergency measures shall take effect according to their terms.

Sec. 21. - Recording and authenticating documents.

The City Council shall appoint a City Secretary who shall be responsible for the original documentation of all laws, notices, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, and related official records of the governing body; all deeds, easements, leases, titles and related documents of ownership of City property; and the municipal charter and seal. Every ordinance or resolution, upon ~~its~~ becoming effective, shall be kept in the permanent files of the City and shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and the City Secretary, or in their absence, the person exercising their duties as appointed by the City Council.

Secs. ~~23,~~24. - Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. THE CITY MANAGER; FINANCES

Sec. 1. - Appointment; position; qualifications; removal.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager, who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. He shall be chosen upon qualification and fitness for the exercise of his duties. He may or may not be a resident of the City of Brenham when appointed, but shall establish his residence within the City as directed by the City Council. The City Council may engage a City Manager by agreement for a term not to exceed one year; however, the City Manager is subject to removal at any time, with or without cause, by City Council.

Sec. 2. - Duties generally.

Except as provided in Article III, section 1 of the Charter or other applicable law, the City Manager or the City Manager's designee shall appoint all officers and employees of the City. The City Manager shall exercise control and supervision over all departments and offices that may be created by the City Council or City Manager and all officers and employees appointed by him. He shall attend all meetings of the City Council with the right to take part in the discussion, but having no vote. He shall recommend in writing to the City Council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient. He shall keep the City Council fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or which may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the City Council.

The City Manager may create and consolidate appointive offices and positions, may divide the administration of the City's affairs into such departments as he may deem advisable, and may discontinue any such appointive office, position, or department at his discretion, except the office of the City Manager, City Secretary, Deputy City Secretary(ies), Municipal Court Judge, Associate Municipal Court Judge(s), City Attorney and Municipal Court Prosecutor.

Sec. 3. - Annual budget.

The annual budget of the City shall be prepared by the City Manager based on the estimates of each department. These departmental estimates shall include the expenses of the department for the preceding year and indicate where increases or ~~reductions~~ ~~diminutions~~ are recommended for the ensuing year. The City Manager shall submit the budget to the City Council for approval.

Sec. 8. - Issuance of checks for payroll and other claims.

No check for the payment of payroll or of any claim shall be issued by the City unless such claims shall be evidenced by an itemized account, in accordance with approved City Budget including amendments, approved by the signature of the City Manager or his designee, and all checks shall be signed by any two of the following: Mayor, City Secretary, City Manager ~~or~~ ~~and~~ the Chief Financial Officer.

ARTICLE V. IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Sec. 1. - Purpose.

The City shall have the right and power to borrow money upon the credit of the City and to issue bonds of the City therefor, in such sum or sums as may be deemed expedient, for the purpose of improving the streets, purchasing or constructing sewers, erecting and maintaining public buildings of every kind and for purchasing or constructing waterworks and gas plants and systems and for the purpose of purchasing, erecting, maintaining and operating an electric light and power plant and such other public utilities as the City Council ~~governing authority~~ may, from time to time, deem expedient, and for any other purpose authorized by state law.

Sec. 2. - Specifying purpose; sale; interest and sinking fund.

All bonds shall specify for what purpose they are issued; and shall be sold for cash. When any bonds are issued by the City a fund shall be provided to pay the interest on those bonds and create a sinking fund to redeem said bonds. Said fund shall not be diverted or drawn upon for any other purpose, and the custodian of the funds of the City shall honor no drafts upon said fund except to pay interest upon or redeem the bonds for which it was provided. The City shall have the power to invest said sinking funds in securities secured by the pledge of United States Bonds or Federal Agency Bonds, Texas State or County Bonds, or Bonds of the City of Brenham, or other municipality, or any school district, or any other investment authorized by state law.

Sec. 3. - Maximum period; signing; specifying places and times of payment; approval by state officials; issuance.

Said bonds shall be issued for a period of time not to exceed forty (40) years; shall be signed by the Mayor, countersigned by the person acting in the capacity of City Secretary, and both principal and interest shall be payable at such places and times as may be fixed by the ordinance of the City Council ~~governing authority~~. All such bonds shall be submitted to the Attorney ~~-~~General of the State for his approval and the Comptroller for registration, as provided by the ~~S~~state law; provided, that any such bonds, after approved, may be issued by the City, either optional or serial, or otherwise, as may be deemed advisable by the City Council ~~governing authority~~.

Sec. 4. - Submitting to referendum.

Before the issuance of any bonds the same shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the City as required by state law ~~the General Laws of the State~~.

ARTICLE VI. TAXATION

Sec. 3. - Occupation tax.

The City shall have the power to levy and collect occupation taxes consonant with the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, and shall authorize the granting and issuance of licenses and shall direct the manner of issuing and registering the same and fix the fees thereafter, but no license shall be issued for a longer period than one year and shall not be assignable except by permission of the City Council ~~governing authority of the City~~.

Sec. 6. - Rendition, etc., as to omitted property.

The City shall have the power to provide for the rendition of unrendered property for taxation, and levy and assess taxes thereon annually, and to provide for the rendition, levy and assessment of taxes for previous years on the property omitted from taxation in the manner provided by ~~Sstate law of this State~~.

Sec. 9. - Time of levying.

The City Council ~~governing authority of the City~~, at its first meeting in September of each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable, shall levy the annual tax for such year, but special taxes or assessments allowed by this Charter may be levied, assessed and collected at such times as the City Council ~~governing authority~~ may provide; provided, that should the City Council ~~governing authority~~ fail or neglect to levy the annual tax herein provided for any one year the annual tax levy for the preceding year last made by said governing authority shall and will be considered in force and effect as the tax levy for the year for which no annual tax was made.

Sec. 11. - City not required to give bond; payments to city to be in legal currency.

It shall not be necessary in any action, suit or proceeding, in which the City shall be a party, for any bond, undertaking, or security to be executed in behalf of the City. Nothing of value nor anything save official currency ~~money current~~ of the United States shall be received in payment of taxes, fines, forfeitures, penalties and debts due and owing to said City.

Secs. 15—19. - Reserved.

ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 6. - Establishment of wards; purpose.

The City shall be divided and established into four (4) wards, having boundaries described by ordinance, for the purpose of securing a more equal distribution of representation on the City Council by the people of the whole City. Newly annexed territory shall be added to the adjacent Ward as City Council may provide. No person shall be a candidate for Councilmember from any ward of the City unless he shall have been, for twelve (12) months preceding the date of the election at which he is a candidate, a resident of the ward represented by the office to which he aspires, and must possess the other qualifications as prescribed in this Charter; provided, however, that the qualifications as to residence in any one ward shall not apply to the Mayor or at-large Councilmembers. Any candidate, Mayor or Councilmember who during his candidacy or term of office moves his place of residence from the City or the ward which he represents automatically~~ipso facto~~ forfeits his right to such office.

Sec. 12. - Liability and notice of injury or damage claims.

Before the City of Brenham shall be liable for damages of any kind, the person injured or the owner of the damaged property, or someone ~~on~~ⁱⁿ his behalf shall give the Mayor or City Councilmembers notice in writing of such injury or damage within ninety (90) days, or within six (6) months for good cause shown, after the same has been received stating specifically in such notice when, where and how the injury or damage occurred and the extent thereof. Failure to notify the Mayor or City Councilmember within the time and manner specified herein shall exonerate, excuse and exempt the City from any liability whatsoever. Further, this section shall not apply to the taking, damaging or destruction of property as guaranteed and covered by Section 17 of Article I of the Constitution of Texas.

Sec. 14. - Court.

The City Council shall establish and provide for a court, designated as the "Municipal Court" for the trial of misdemeanor offenses, with all such jurisdiction, powers, duties as are now, or may hereafter be prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas relative to municipal courts.

The Municipal Court shall be presided over by a Magistrate who shall be known as the Judge of the Municipal Court. The City Council shall provide for the qualifications of the Judge and any Associate Municipal Judge(s). The Judge and any Associate Judge(s) of said court shall be appointed by the City Council to serve a term of office of two (2) years; however, they shall be removable at any time, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the City Council. Any such judge shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Council. In the event a judge is temporarily unable to act for any reason, the Mayor shall appoint a qualified person to temporarily act in the judge's place. In the event a vacancy exists in the office of Judge or Associate Judge for any reason, the City Council, by majority vote, shall appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

There shall be a Municipal Clerk of said court ~~appointed~~~~appoint[ed]~~ by the City Manager. The Clerk of said Court shall have the power to administer oaths and affidavits, make certificates, affix the seal of said court thereto, and generally do and perform any and all acts necessary in issuing process of said Court and conducting business thereof. There may be such Deputy Clerks of the Municipal Court as may be authorized and appointed by the City Manager, which Deputy Clerks shall have authority to act for and on behalf of the Clerk of the Municipal Court. Said Municipal Court Clerk and Deputy Clerks shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Manager.

There shall also be an attorney appointed by the City Council to serve as the prosecutor in Municipal Court and said prosecutor shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Council.

Sec. 15. - Council investigations.

The City Council may investigate the financial transactions of any office or department of the City government, and the acts and conduct of any official or employee. In conducting such investigation, the City Council may compel the attendance of witnesses, the production of checks and papers, and other evidence and for that purpose may issue subpoenas or attachments which shall be signed by the Mayor, and which may be served and executed by any officer authorized by law to serve subpoenas or other process, or by any peace officer of the City. If any witness shall refuse to appear to testify to ~~any~~~~and~~ facts within his knowledge, or to produce any papers or books in his possession, or under his control, relating to the matter under investigation before the City Council, the City Council shall have the power to cause the witness to be punished as for contempt, not exceeding a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). No witness shall be excused from testifying ~~to any fact within~~~~touching~~ his knowledge of the matter under investigation in any such inquiry, but such testimony shall not be used against him in any criminal prosecution except for perjury committed upon such inquiry.

Sec. 19. - Filing, examination and certification of petitions.

Within thirty (30) days after an initiative or referendum petition is filed, the City Secretary shall determine whether the same is signed by the requisite number of qualified voters. The City Secretary shall declare void any petition paper which does not have an affidavit attached thereto as required in Section ~~18~~~~20C~~ of this Article. In examining the petition the Secretary shall write the letters "DV" (declared void) in red ink opposite the names of signatures found not qualified to vote. After completing examination of the petition, the Secretary shall certify the result thereof to the Council at its next regular meeting, stating the number of the persons found on the petition who are qualified to vote and the number of persons found on the petition who ~~are~~~~are~~ not qualified to vote. If the Certificate of the City Secretary shall show an initiative or referendum petition to be insufficient, the Secretary shall notify the persons filing the petition, and it may be amended within ten (10) days from the date of such notice by filing a supplementary petition upon additional papers signed and filed as provided for in ~~the~~ original petition. Within ten (10) days after such amendment is filed, the Secretary shall examine the

amended petition and certify as to its sufficiency. If the amended petition is found to be insufficient, the Secretary shall return the petition to the person filing the same, without prejudice to the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

Sec. 24. - Recall ballot.

Ballots used at recall elections shall conform to the following requirements: (1)~~"1"~~. With respect to each person whose removal is sought the question shall be submitted "shall (show name of officer) be removed from the office of (name of office)?" and (2)~~"2"~~. Immediately below each such question there shall be printed the two (2) following propositions, one above the other, in the order indicated: "For the recall of (name of officer)". "Against the recall of (name of officer)."

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend multiple sections of the Brenham City Charter (as shown above) to: (1) correct grammar, spelling and punctuation errors; (2) delete reserved sections and renumber as needed; and (3) make non-substantive vocabulary changes in order to use modern and consistent terminology.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition A is approved.



Proposition B

This is the second of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION B

☐ YES

Shall Article I, Section 2 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying the authority, procedures and terminology concerning annexation and disannexation of territory to be consistent with applicable federal, state or other law?

☐ NO

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition B will amend the Brenham City Charter by clarifying that the city's authority and procedures concerning the annexation and/or disannexation of any land will be done as required by federal, state, or other laws.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT; BOUNDARIES

Sec. 2. - Boundaries.

The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to establish the boundary limits of the City of Brenham; and to provide for the alterations and extension of said boundary limits, the annexation of additional territory to the City and ~~the detachment or~~ disannexation of territory, with or without the consent of the owners and inhabitants of the territory annexed, ~~detached~~ or disannexed, in accordance with applicable federal, state or other law. ~~The boundaries of the City shall be those established by ordinance of the City Council enacted in accordance with the procedures provided for in applicable federal, state or other law.~~ The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description of the City boundaries, indicating all annexations, ~~detachments~~ and disannexations.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT; BOUNDARIES

Sec. 2. - Boundaries.

The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to establish the boundary limits of the City of Brenham; and to provide for the alterations and extension of said boundary limits, the annexation of additional territory to the City and disannexation of territory, with or without the consent of the owners and inhabitants of the territory annexed or disannexed, in accordance with applicable federal, state or other law. The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description of the City boundaries, indicating all annexations and disannexations.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT; BOUNDARIES

Sec. 2. - Boundaries.

The City Council shall have the power by ordinance to establish the boundary limits of the City of Brenham; and to provide for the alterations and extension of said boundary limits, the annexation of additional territory to the City and the detachment or disannexation of territory, with or without the consent of the owners and inhabitants of the territory annexed, detached or disannexed. The boundaries of the City shall be those established by ordinance of the City Council enacted in accordance with the procedures provided for in applicable federal, state or other law. The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description of the City boundaries, indicating all annexations, detachments and disannexations.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition B is approved.



Proposition C

This is the third of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION C

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article III, Section 4 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that a person may not serve as Mayor more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office; providing that after completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, a person may again serve in the office of Mayor after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Mayor; providing that a person shall not serve as a Councilmember, either in a ward or at-large, more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years; providing that after completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years, a person may again serve in the office of Councilmember after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Councilmember; providing that time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor or Councilmember for an unexpired term shall not count toward the term limit; and providing that terms of office, or partial terms of office, served as Mayor or Councilmember prior to May 3, 2025 shall not be considered for the purpose of term limits?

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition C will amend the Brenham City Charter to provide for three (3), four-year term limits (maximum of 12 years) for the Mayor and each City Councilmember. It will also mandate that if a Mayor or Councilmember is term limited from office, they must wait one (1) entire year before being eligible to serve again. This Proposition will also make any full terms or partial terms served by the Mayor or Councilmembers prior to May 3, 2025 not count for the purpose of term limits.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 4. - Terms of office; term limits.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall serve for a term of four (4) years, beginning with the first meeting of the City Council following their election until the later of the first meeting of the City Council following the regular election four (4) years later or their successor has been elected and duly qualified.

A person shall not serve as Mayor more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office. Time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor for an unexpired term shall not count toward the term limit. After completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, a person may again serve in the office of Mayor after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Mayor. Non-consecutive terms of office shall not be limited.

A person shall not serve as a Councilmember, either in a ward or at-large, more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years. Time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Councilmember for an unexpired term shall not count toward the twelve (12) year term limit. After completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years, a person may again serve in the office of Councilmember after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Councilmember. Non-consecutive terms of office shall not be limited.

Terms of office, or partial terms of office, served prior to May 3, 2025 shall not be considered for the purpose of term limits.

What does it mean to vote **YES** on this Proposition?

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 4. - Terms of office; term limits.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall serve for a term of four (4) years, beginning with the first meeting of the City Council following their election until the later of the first meeting of the City Council following the regular election four (4) years later or their successor has been elected and duly qualified.

A person shall not serve as Mayor more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office. Time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor for an unexpired term shall not count toward the term limit. After completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, a person may again serve in the office of Mayor after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Mayor. Non-consecutive terms of office shall not be limited.

A person shall not serve as a Councilmember, either in a ward or at-large, more than three (3) consecutive elected four (4) year terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years. Time served by appointment or by election to fill a vacancy in the office of Councilmember for an unexpired term shall not count toward the twelve (12) year term limit. After completing three (3) consecutive elected terms of office, or twelve (12) consecutive years, a person may again serve in the office of Councilmember after one (1) entire year of not holding the office of Councilmember. Non-consecutive terms of office shall not be limited.

Terms of office, or partial terms of office, served prior to May 3, 2025 shall not be considered for the purpose of term limits.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 4. - Terms of office.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall serve for a term of four (4) years, beginning with the first meeting of the City Council following their election until the later of the first meeting of the City Council following the regular election four (4) years later or their successor has been elected and duly qualified.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition C is approved.



Proposition D

This is the fourth of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION D

☐

YES

☐

NO

Shall Article III, Section 6 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying the qualifications necessary to hold the office of Mayor and Councilmember; clarifying that any Mayor or Councilmember that ceases to possess any of the required qualifications shall automatically forfeit his office; and deleting provisions related to conflicts of interest?

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition D will amend the Brenham City Charter by clarifying the qualifications necessary to hold the office of Mayor or Councilmember. This Proposition will mandate that if the Mayor or any Councilmember fail to possess any of the required qualifications, they will automatically forfeit their office.

This Proposition also relocates language related to conflicts of interest from this section into another section of the Charter (see Proposition J).

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 6. – Qualifications to hold office of mayor and councilmembers ~~and other officers and employees; conflict of interests.~~

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be a resident citizen~~s~~ of the City of Brenham, be a qualified voter~~have the qualifications of electors therein~~, be of a minimum age of twenty-one (21) when elected, and shall have been resident citizens of the City of Brenham and any ward they may represent for a period of twelve (12) months immediately preceding such election. Any such officer of the City who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications herein required shall automatically forfeit his office. ~~The Mayor, Councilmembers and other officers and employees shall not be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service for the municipality, or interested in the sale to the City of any supplies, equipment, material, or articles purchased. Any officer or employee of the City who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications herein required shall forthwith and ipso facto forfeit his office, and any such contract in which any officer or employee is or may become interested may be declared void by the City Council.~~

What does it mean to vote **YES** on this Proposition?

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 6. – Qualifications to hold office of mayor and councilmember.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be a resident citizen of the City of Brenham, be a qualified voter, be of a minimum age of twenty-one (21) when elected, and shall have been resident citizens of the City of Brenham and any ward they may represent for a period of twelve (12) months immediately preceding such election. Any such officer of the City who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications herein required shall automatically forfeit his office.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 6. - Qualifications to hold office of mayor, councilmembers and other officers and employees; conflict of interests.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be resident citizens of the City of Brenham, have the qualifications of electors therein, be of a minimum age of twenty-one (21) when elected, and shall have been resident citizens of the City of Brenham and any ward they may represent for a period of twelve (12) months immediately preceding such election. The Mayor, Councilmembers and other officers and employees shall not be interested in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service for the municipality, or interested in the sale to the City of any supplies, equipment, material, or articles purchased. Any officer or employee of the City who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications herein required shall forthwith and ipso facto forfeit his office, and any such contract in which any officer or employee is or may become interested may be declared void by the City Council.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition D is approved.



Proposition E

This is the fifth of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION E

- ☐ YES Shall Article III, Section 8 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by clarifying that members of the City Council do not serve as Election Judges, as that position is defined in Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code, in any election held by the City?
- ☐ NO

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition E clarifies that the members of the City Council will not serve as election judges in any City of Brenham election; that position is clearly defined in Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 8. - Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own ~~election and~~ qualification.

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered forthwith by the Election Judges to the City Secretary. The Council shall canvass the returns; investigate the qualifications of the candidates, and declare the official results of the election in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by Ward totals, when applicable. At each election the qualified person receiving a majority of all votes cast for the office that person seeks shall thereon be declared elected by said Council.

The City Council shall be judges of the ~~election and the Council's~~ qualifications of its members, and the Council's determination shall be conclusive and final for all purposes.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 8. - Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own ~~election and~~ qualification.

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered forthwith by the Election Judges to the City Secretary. The Council shall canvass the returns; investigate the qualifications of the candidates and declare the official results of the election in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by Ward totals, when applicable. At each election the qualified person receiving a majority of all votes cast for the office that person seeks shall thereon be declared elected by said Council.

The City Council shall be judges of the qualifications of its members, and the Council's determination shall be conclusive and final for all purposes.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 8. - Canvassing returns and declaring results of election; judges of its own election and qualification.

The returns of every municipal election shall be delivered forthwith by the Election Judges to the City Secretary. The Council shall canvass the returns; investigate the qualifications of the candidates, and declare the official results of the election in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The returns of every municipal election shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by Ward totals, when applicable. At each election the qualified person receiving a majority of all votes cast for the office that person seeks shall thereon be declared elected by said Council.

The City Council shall be judges of the election and the Council's qualification of its members shall be conclusive and final for all purposes.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition E is approved.



Proposition F

This is the sixth of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION F

- ☐ YES Shall Article III, Sections 9 and 11 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the regular municipal elections of the City shall be held on the uniform election date in May of odd-numbered years, or on any other uniform election date authorized by law?
- ☐ NO

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition F will amend the Brenham City Charter by mandating that all regular city elections will be held on uniform election dates in May of odd-numbered years or on any other uniform election date authorized by law.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 9. - Regular election days.

The regular municipal elections of the City of Brenham shall be held on the ~~second Saturday~~ uniform election date in May in odd-numbered years or any other uniform election date as authorized by law.

Sec. 11. - Special elections; state election laws control elections.

All elections provided for in this Charter, except the regular election of Councilmembers held on the uniform election date ~~second Saturday~~ in May of odd-numbered years or on any other date as authorized by law, shall be called special elections, and all elections shall be conducted and results canvassed and announced by the election authorities as prescribed by the general election laws of the State of Texas relating to cities and towns, and said general election laws shall control in all municipal elections, except as otherwise herein provided.

What does it mean to vote **YES** on this Proposition?

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 9. - Regular election days.

The regular municipal elections of the City of Brenham shall be held on the uniform election date in May in odd-numbered years or any other uniform election date as authorized by law.

Sec. 11. - Special elections; state election laws control elections.

All elections provided for in this Charter, except the regular election of Councilmembers held on the uniform election date in May of odd-numbered years or on any other date as authorized by law, shall be called special elections, and all elections shall be conducted and results canvassed and announced by the election authorities as prescribed by the general election laws of the State of Texas relating to cities and towns, and said general election laws shall control in all municipal elections, except as otherwise herein provided.

What does it mean to vote **NO** on this Proposition?

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 9. - Regular election days.

The regular municipal elections of the City of Brenham shall be held on the second Saturday in May in odd-numbered years or any other date as authorized by law.

Sec. 11. - Special elections; state election laws control elections.

All elections provided for in this Charter, except the regular election of Councilmembers held on the second Saturday in May of odd-numbered years or on any other date as authorized by law, shall be called special elections, and all elections shall be conducted and results canvassed and announced by the election authorities as prescribed by the general election laws of the State of Texas relating to cities and towns, and said general election laws shall control in all municipal elections, except as otherwise herein provided.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition F is approved.



Proposition G

This is the seventh of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION G

- ☐ YES Shall Article III, Section 10 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that all City Council runoff elections shall be held in accordance with applicable law?
- ☐ NO

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition G clarifies that all runoff elections will be held in accordance with applicable laws.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 10. – Runoff elections.

In the event any candidate for the Council (including the Mayor) fails to receive, at any regular or special election, a majority of all votes cast for his particular office, the Mayor or, if he fails to do so, the Council shall no later than the fifth day following the official canvas of the election order a runoff election to be held ~~within thirty (30) days of said canvass~~ in accordance with applicable law.

At said runoff election the two (2) candidates that received the highest number of votes cast for such particular office in the first election, at which no one was elected to such office by receiving a majority of all votes cast for all candidates for such particular office, shall be voted on again.

The candidate who receives the majority of the votes cast for the particular office in the runoff election shall be elected to such office and shall take office as soon thereafter as he is qualified.

In runoffs for the office of Mayor or Councilmembers elected at large, the registered voters of the City as a whole shall vote. In runoffs of Councilmembers for single wards, being any of the Councilmembers from Ward One, Ward Two, Ward Three or Ward Four, only those registered voters in the particular ward shall vote in the runoff election for that particular position.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 10. – Runoff elections.

In the event any candidate for the Council (including the Mayor) fails to receive, at any regular or special election, a majority of all votes cast for his particular office, the Mayor or, if he fails to do so, the Council shall no later than the fifth day following the official canvas of the election order a runoff election to be held in accordance with applicable law.

At said runoff election the two (2) candidates that received the highest number of votes cast for such particular office in the first election, at which no one was elected to such office by receiving a majority of all votes cast for all candidates for such particular office, shall be voted on again.

The candidate who receives the majority of the votes cast for the particular office in the runoff election shall be elected to such office and shall take office as soon thereafter as he is qualified.

In runoffs for the office of Mayor or Councilmembers elected at large, the registered voters of the City as a whole shall vote. In runoffs of Councilmembers for single wards, being any of the Councilmembers from Ward One, Ward Two, Ward Three or Ward Four, only those registered voters in the particular ward shall vote in the runoff election for that particular position.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 10. - Runoff elections.

In the event any candidate for the Council (including the Mayor) fails to receive, at any regular or special election, a majority of all votes cast for his particular office, the Mayor or, if he fails to do so, the Council shall no later than the fifth day following the official canvass of the election order a runoff election to be held within thirty (30) days of said canvass.

At said runoff election the two (2) candidates that received the highest number of votes cast for such particular office in the first election, at which no one was elected to such office by receiving a majority of all votes cast for all candidates for such particular office, shall be voted on again.

The candidate who receives the majority of the votes cast for the particular office in the runoff election shall be elected to such office and shall take office as soon thereafter as he is qualified.

In runoffs for the office of Mayor or Councilmembers elected at large, the registered voters of the City as a whole shall vote. In runoffs of Councilmembers for single wards, being any of the Councilmembers from Ward One, Ward Two, Ward Three or Ward Four, only those registered voters in the particular ward shall vote in the runoff election for that particular position.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition G is approved.



Proposition H

This is the eighth of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION H

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article III, Section 13 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the City Council shall meet within fourteen (14) days after an election, whether a regular election or runoff election, at which time Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their offices?

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition H will amend the Brenham City Charter to state that after an election – whether it is a regular election or a runoff election – members of the City Council shall meet within 14 days to assume their duties.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 13. - Organizational meeting; holding other meetings.

Within fourteen (14) days after the election of the Councilmembers, whether a regular election or runoff election, the City Council shall meet in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, at which time the Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their offices. Thereafter the City Council shall meet at such time as prescribed by ordinance or resolution, but they shall meet at least once each month.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 13. - Organizational meeting; holding other meetings.

Within fourteen (14) days after the election of the Councilmembers, whether a regular election or runoff election, the City Council shall meet in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, at which time the Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their offices. Thereafter the City Council shall meet at such time as prescribed by ordinance or resolution, but they shall meet at least once each month.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 13. - Organizational meeting; holding other meetings.

Within fourteen (14) days after the election of the Councilmembers, the City Council shall meet in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, at which time the Councilmembers-elect shall qualify and assume the duties of their offices. Thereafter the City Council shall meet at such time as prescribed by ordinance or resolution, but they shall meet at least once each month.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition H is approved.



Proposition I

This is the ninth of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION I

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article III, Section 14 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the Mayor's salary shall be changed from two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) per month to five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) per month, and each Councilmember's salary shall be changed from two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) per month to four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per month?

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition I will amend the Brenham City Charter to allow for the Mayor's salary to be increased from \$275.00 per month to \$550.00 per month and each Councilmember's salary to be increased from \$225.00 per month to \$450.00 per month.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 14. - Salaries.

The Mayor shall receive a salary of five hundred fifty ~~two hundred seventy-five~~ dollars ~~(\$550.00)~~ ~~(\$275.00)~~ per month and each Councilmember shall receive a salary of four hundred fifty ~~two hundred twenty-five~~ dollars ~~(\$450.00)~~ ~~(\$225.00)~~ per month.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 14. - Salaries.

The Mayor shall receive a salary of five hundred fifty-dollars (\$550.00) per month and each Councilmember shall receive a salary of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per month.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 14. - Salaries.

The Mayor shall receive a salary of two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) per month and each Councilmember shall receive a salary of two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) per month.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is a \$19,500.00 annual budget impact if Proposition I is approved.



Proposition J

This is the tenth of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION J

☐ YES

☐ NO

Shall Article III, Section 23 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by requiring the Mayor, City Councilmembers and other officers and employees of the City, with regard to any contract or other matter authorized by the City, to comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest of local public officials?

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition J will amend the Brenham City Charter by adding language regarding conflicts of interest and clarifying that the Mayor, Councilmembers and any other officers and employees of the City will comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Secs. 23, ~~24.~~ – ~~Reserved~~ Conflicts of Interest.

The Mayor, Councilmembers and other officers and employees, with regard to any contract or other matter authorized by the City, shall comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest of local public officials.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Secs. 23. Conflicts of Interest.

The Mayor, Councilmembers and other officers and employees, with regard to any contract or other matter authorized by the City, shall comply with the Texas Local Government Code and all other applicable laws governing conflicts of interest of local public officials.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL

Secs. 23, 24. - Reserved.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition J is approved.



Proposition K

This is the eleventh of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION K

☐ YES

Shall Article VII, Section 7 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that with regard to official bonds of certain officers of the City, the City Manager, rather than the City Council, shall determine the amounts of and approve said bonds?

☐ NO

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition K will amend the Brenham City Charter to allow the City Manager, instead of City Council, to set the amount of and approve surety bonds for all appointed officers and employees of the city.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 7. - Official bonds.

The person exercising the duties of the City Tax Collector shall give an official bond in such sum as may be prescribed by the ~~City Council~~ City Manager from time to time; such bond shall be payable to the City of Brenham and shall, in each instance, be conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of such officer, and for the faithful accounting of all moneys, claims and things of value coming into the hands of such officer. Such bond shall be procured from some regular accredited surety company authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Texas, and the premiums to such surety company shall be paid by the City of Brenham, provided that the City Council may by ordinance, require official bonds from any other appointive officers of the City in such amounts and conditioned as they may deem best for the efficiency of the public service. All official bonds shall be surety company bonds and shall be approved by the ~~City Council~~ City Manager and filed and recorded with the person exercising the duties of City Secretary.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 7. - Official bonds.

The person exercising the duties of the City Tax Collector shall give an official bond in such sum as may be prescribed by the City Manager from time to time; such bond shall be payable to the City of Brenham and shall, in each instance, be conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of such officer, and for the faithful accounting of all moneys, claims and things of value coming into the hands of such officer. Such bond shall be procured from some regular accredited surety company authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Texas, and the premiums to such surety company shall be paid by the City of Brenham, provided that the City Council may by ordinance, require official bonds from any other appointive officers of the City in such amounts and conditioned as they may deem best for the efficiency of the public service. All official bonds shall be surety company bonds and shall be approved by the City Manager and filed and recorded with the person exercising the duties of City Secretary.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 7. - Official bonds.

The person exercising the duties of the City Tax Collector shall give an official bond in such sum as may be prescribed by the City Council from time to time; such bond shall be payable to the City of Brenham and shall, in each instance, be conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of such officer, and for the faithful accounting of all moneys, claims and things of value coming into the hands of such officer. Such bond shall be procured from some regular accredited surety company authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Texas, and the premiums to such surety company shall be paid by the City of Brenham, provided that the City Council may by ordinance, require official bonds from any other appointive officers of the City in such amounts and conditioned as they may deem best for the efficiency of the public service. All official bonds shall be surety company bonds and shall be approved by the City Council and filed and recorded with the person exercising the duties of City Secretary.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition K is approved.



Proposition L

This is the twelfth of twelve proposed Propositions to amend the City of Brenham's Home Rule Charter which will be considered by the voters in the May 3, 2025 Special Election.

What you will see on the ballot:

PROPOSITION L

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | Shall Article IV, Section 1 of the Brenham City Charter be amended by providing that the City Manager shall establish his residence within Washington County, Texas as directed by the City Council? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | |

Why is this Proposition on the ballot?

Proposition L will amend the Brenham City Charter to allow the City Manager to live within Washington County, Texas as directed by the City Council.

How will this Proposition change the Charter?

ARTICLE IV. THE CITY MANAGER; FINANCES

Sec. 1. - Appointment; position; qualifications; removal.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager, who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. He shall be chosen upon qualification and fitness for the exercise of his duties. He may or may not be a resident of the City of Brenham when appointed but shall establish his residence within Washington County, Texas~~the City~~ as directed by the City Council. The City Council may engage a City Manager by agreement for a term not to exceed one year; however, the City Manager is subject to removal at any time, with or without cause, by City Council.

What does it mean to vote **YES on this Proposition?**

If you vote **YES** on this proposition, you are voting to amend the Brenham City Charter to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV. THE CITY MANAGER; FINANCES

Sec. 1. - Appointment; position; qualifications; removal.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager, who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. He shall be chosen upon qualification and fitness for the exercise of his duties. He may or may not be a resident of the City of Brenham when appointed but shall establish his residence within Washington County, Texas as directed by the City Council. The City Council may engage a City Manager by agreement for a term not to exceed one year; however, the City Manager is subject to removal at any time, with or without cause, by City Council.

What does it mean to vote **NO on this Proposition?**

If you vote **NO** on this proposition, you are voting to keep the Brenham City Charter as it is currently worded:

ARTICLE IV. THE CITY MANAGER; FINANCES

Sec. 1. - Appointment; position; qualifications; removal.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager, who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government and shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all departments. He shall be chosen upon qualification and fitness for the exercise of his duties. He may or may not be a resident of the City of Brenham when appointed, but shall establish his residence within the City as directed by the City Council. The City Council may engage a City Manager by agreement for a term not to exceed one year; however, the City Manager is subject to removal at any time, with or without cause, by City Council.

What is the budget impact of this Proposition?

There is no budget impact if Proposition L is approved.