

Follow up on motion to amend charter to provide for election of Mayor by majority rather than plurality vote with runoff language included.

Section 8.05. - Elections.

(a) *Council positions.* All members of the city council shall be elected at large. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes among the candidates for that seat shall be elected.

(b) Mayor. The mayor shall be elected at large. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes for mayor shall be declared elected.

(bc) —Regular elections. Regular city elections shall be held on the second Tuesday in March of each year in which a council term expires.

(d) Runoff election for mayor. If no mayoral candidate receives a majority in the regular election, a runoff election limited to the two candidates for mayor receiving the highest and next highest number of votes in the regular election shall be held no later than 60 days after the regular election.

(ee) Special elections. Special municipal elections may be called by the council at any time for such purposes as are authorized by law.

(fd) —Effective date of office. Newly elected council members shall take office the next business day following certification of city regular election returns. The newly elected mayor shall take office the next business day following certification of the city regular election returns or runoff election returns as applicable.

(g) Canvassing Board. The Pinellas County Canvassing Board shall serve as the City of Clearwater's canvassing board, unless otherwise provided by ordinance.

Comments:

Changing the mayoral election from plurality to majority requires the addition of either a runoff provision or a primary race.

St. Petersburg has a primary election 10 weeks prior to the general municipal election. Their general election is held in November.

Because our elections are held the second Tuesday in March, a primary 10 weeks earlier would fall in the winter holidays.

Tampa has a runoff election which was just recently amended to take place 49 days after the general election in order to provide sufficient time for mailing of military ballots.

The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections prefers not to have runoff elections because of the impact on their election schedule and ability to plan.

Currently they support runoff elections for St. Pete Beach which also holds their election on the second Tuesday in March of each year when a term expires.