

City of Crandall

What is a Charter? What can a Charter do? And, what can it not do?

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Charter Commission application due no later than 12/13/2019
- Charter Commission appointed 01/06/2020
- Charter Commission Oath of Office and Required Training 01/09/2020
- All meetings of Charter Commission are open to the Public
- Applications are available online at crandalltexas.com or at City Hall.

A Charter is the foundation of a local government and functions as the municipal equivalent of a state or federal constitution, setting forth guiding principles for governance. Composed by citizens, a charter specifies the most fundamental relationships between a government and its community. It establishes the framework for how a local government operates in terms of its structure, responsibilities, functions, and processes. The way public officials are elected, the form of government, and the role citizens play in local government are just a few examples of the important choices articulated in a charter.



What can a Charter Do?

So what can a Charter Do?

- ◇ Alter a form of government so the new form is better aligned with the preference of citizens
- ◇ Restrict or increase options available to governmental leaders
- ◇ Alter electoral representation
- ◇ Distribute powers among elected officials, appointed officials, and governing bodies as well as between city officials and citizens
- ◇ Set the stage for governmental leaders to achieve desired changes
- ◇ Convert elected positions to appointed positions and vice versa

What can't a Charter Do?

So what can't a Charter Do?

- ◇ Automatically increase the quality of governmental products and services
- ◇ Jumpstart the local economy
- ◇ Decrease local crime
- ◇ Improve the school system
- ◇ Stop a controversial public project
- ◇ Change or eliminate state-mandated activities
- ◇ Eliminate political end-fighting and make elected officials achieve consensus
- ◇ Annex property without consent

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Applying for the Charter Commission

One of the first steps in becoming a Home Rule Municipality is creating a Charter. The governing body is charged with identifying a group of individuals who may be willing to serve on a Charter Commission. A Charter Commission is a body authorized by law and exists for the sole purpose of drafting and ultimately submitting to the voters a new charter. The City of Crandall City Council has de-

termined the best way to select a Charter Commission is by appointing the Commission at a Mass Meeting which will be held on Monday January 6, 2020. Applications to serve on the Charter Commission will be accepted by the City Secretary at City Hall located at 110 S. Main St. until December 13, 2019. Members of the Commission will be required to be a registered voter of the City of Crandall.

Charter Commission Timeline

Present – December 13	Applications accepted to serve on the Charter Commission
January 6, 2020	“Mass Meeting” City Council Selects Charter Commission
January 9, 2020	1 st meeting of Charter Commission Oath of Office is given and training on the Texas Open Meetings Act with Q and A session. Samples of area Charters are given to the members
January 23, 2020	2 nd Meeting of Charter Commission
February 13, 2020	3 rd Meeting of Charter Commission
February 27, 2020	Final Meeting of Charter Commission
March 2, 2020	Charter Presented to City Council for approval
<u>MARCH 23, 2020</u>	<u>DEADLINE FOR CHARTER TO BE PRESENTED AND APPROVED FOR THE BALLOT.</u>
<u>APRIL 2, 2020</u>	<u>DEADLINE FOR CITY SECRETARY TO MAIL COMPLETED CHARTER TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS OF CRANDALL.</u>
May 2, 2020	Election Day

* timeline is subject to change if additional meeting dates are required

The Commission's Charge

The group of individuals chosen to serve on this commission are charged with a unique and important civic-minded task. An opportunity to serve one's community in this way typically comes once in a lifetime. Furthermore, if voters approve the Charter the commission's work will have lasting impact for many years to come.

Today's local governments also face challenges and often look to their charters for solutions. A well-functioning local government relies on established rules, regulations, practices, and precedent, and it's

charter is a large part of this. The Commission's Charge is essentially to create the way the City of Crandall will be governed in the future.

The Charter will contain enduring guiding principles for governmental operations, and must also be able to be adapted and changed. Although many good charters stand the test of time, they are documents crafted by flawed human beings who are unable to see into the future. Therefore, charters need to be revised and updated from time to time.

Once the Commission is Charged

with Creation of the Charter participants should be eager to work hard and willing to share their talents and expertise. It is very important to understand that participants bring with them unique value systems, biases, differing opinions on what "good government" is, good and bad life experience living in different communities, and (in some cases) personal agendas. As a result, deeply-held beliefs and viewpoints set the stage for complex committee dynamics, passionate discussions, and heated debates.

"Composed by citizens, a charter specifies the most fundamental relationships between a government and its community."

Commission Membership

At the heart of the Membership, the Commission will need an active and focused engagement of a diverse and representative group of community members. Diversity will be important. The involvement of diverse groups and perspectives will not only contribute to a better final product, but will also lend credibility to the validity of the final outcome of the Charter. The most effective Charter

Commissions are not dominated by lawyers, scholars, and accountants, but made up of civic-minded, intelligent lay people with a common-sense approach to things. The members should a.) be in touch with the perspectives present in the community; b.) command respect from local residents; and c.) bolster the confidence of citizens in the process and the work of the commission.

Given the importance of the commission's task, the membership of the charter commission is worthy of careful consideration. Individuals chosen to serve on the commission have a special opportunity for local statesmanship. If voters ultimately approve the work of the commission, the efforts that the group will have will leave a lasting impact on the future of Crandall.

Where is the application?

Applications can be picked up at City Hall.

Found online on our website crandalltexas.com/DocumentCenter/View/411/BOARD-APPLICATION-FORM

Found on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Crandall-Texas-331778057685/?eid=ARDAUV->

DOADsDYr_efzIBYn-M7ABFFztKzFpt-BrsxJmb4v_P5KlkVOF2KUk5XogK_3Alc59RrPeI Bv9W

Or you can have an application emailed to you by contacting our City Secretary, Bobbie Jo Taylor at 972-427-3771 ext 102 or btaylor@crandalltexas.com





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Elected Officials

Danny Kirbie – Mayor

David Lindsey – Mayor Pro-tem

Shannon Barnes

Caleb Allen

Tim Atkins

Ron Lanier

Important Numbers

972/427-3771 City Hall

972/427-3767 Non-Emergency Police

469/447-4096 Court

Address

PO Box 277

Crandall Texas 75114

www.crandalltexas.com