



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

April 16, 2025

City of Ann Arbor
Jacqueline Beaudry
City Clerk
301 E. Huron Street
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Re: City of Ann Arbor- Proposed Charter Amendments

Dear Ms. Beaudry,

I am responding to the request for approval of the proposed charter amendments for the City of Ann Arbor. The resolutions proposing these amendments were adopted by the Ann Arbor City Council at its meeting held on March 3, 2025. Based on the review by the Attorney General's Office, I am notifying you that I approve the proposed amendments pursuant to the Home Rule City Act, 1909 PA 279, MCL 117.1, *et seq.*, for submission to the voters at an election to be held on August 5, 2025.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

c: George M. Elworth, Assistant Attorney General

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of the State of Michigan
ATTN: Legal Division
George W. Romney Bldg.
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909-7513

Dear Governor Whitmer:

Pursuant to statute, copies of the proposed amendments to the Ann Arbor City Charter are being submitted for your approval. The proposed charter amendments would be as follows:

A – Amend Section 14.3 of the City Charter to authorize the City to sell its interests in 319 South Fifth Avenue or 326 South Division Street only to the Ann Arbor District Library for the purpose of building a mixed-use development. Adoption of this amendment is conditioned on adoption of City Proposal B.

B – Repeal Section 1.4 of the City Charter, titled Center of the City. Adoption of this amendment is conditioned on adoption of City Proposal A.

The proposed charter language is included in the enclosed certified resolutions, adopted by the Ann Arbor City Council at its regular session of March 3, 2025. The resolutions authorize the charter amendment propositions to appear on the August 5, 2025 Special Election Ballot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jacqueline Beaudry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Jacqueline Beaudry
City Clerk

JB/ai

cc: Attorney General Dana Nessel, AG-SO-LocalGovCharters@michigan.gov
Washtenaw County Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum, kestenbaum1@washtenaw.org



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Certified Copy

Resolution: R-25-064

File Number: 25-0482

Enactment Number: R-25-064

Resolution to Order Election and to Determine Ballot Question for Charter Amendment to Repeal
Section 1.4 of the City Charter (**7 Votes Required**)

Whereas, Section 1.4 currently reads:

Center of the City

SECTION 1.4 The City-owned public land bounded by Fifth Avenue, and William, Division and Liberty Streets shall be retained in public ownership, in perpetuity, and developed as an urban central park and civic center commons known as the "Center of the City."

Whereas, August 5, 2025 is available as an Election Date;

RESOLVED, That the following amended charter provision be placed on the ballot and submitted to the voters at the next available election date:

~~Center of the City~~

~~SECTION 1.4 The City-owned public land bounded by Fifth Avenue, and William, Division and Liberty Streets shall be retained in public ownership, in perpetuity, and developed as an urban central park and civic center commons known as the "Center of the City."~~

RESOLVED, That August 5, 2025 is designated as the day for holding an election on the proposed Charter amendment;

RESOLVED, That the Clerk shall transmit a copy of the proposed amendment to the Attorney General and the Governor of Michigan and shall perform all other acts required by law for holding the election;

RESOLVED, That the proposed Charter amendment shall appear on the ballot in the following form:

CITY PROPOSAL B

AMENDMENT TO REPEAL SECTION 1.4 OF THE CITY CHARTER

Shall Section 1.4 of the City Charter, currently titled Center of the City, be repealed? Adoption of this amendment is conditioned on adoption of City Proposal A at this election.

☐ Yes ☐ No

RESOLVED, That the proposed Charter amendment and proposed ballot question shall be published in full in the Washtenaw County Legal News and on the City's website; and

RESOLVED, That if the amendment is adopted, it shall take immediate effect.

Sponsored by: Mayor Taylor and Councilmembers Eyer, Harrison, Cornell, and Akmon

At a regular session of the Ann Arbor City Council held on March 3, 2025, the foregoing resolution was moved by Councilmember Eyer, seconded by Councilmember Cornell, that this Resolution R-25-064 be approved.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Disch, Eyer, Radina, Harrison, Watson, Akmon, Cornell, Mallek, and Mayor Taylor, 9;

NAYS: 0;

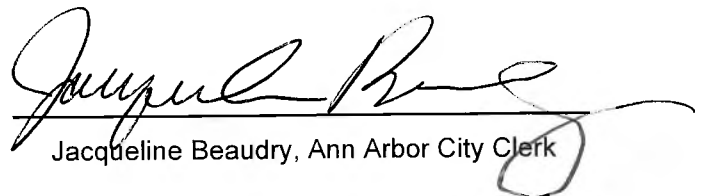
ABSENT: Councilmembers Briggs and Ghazi Edwin.

The resolution was declared adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, at its regular session of March 3, 2025.

March 12, 2025




Jacqueline Beaudry, Ann Arbor City Clerk



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Certified Copy

Resolution: R-25-066

File Number: 25-0480

Enactment Number: R-25-066

Resolution to Order Election and to Determine Ballot Question for Charter Amendment to Authorize the Sale of 319 South Fifth Avenue to the Ann Arbor District Library **(7 Votes Required)**

Whereas, Section 14.3 currently reads:

Limitations on Contractual Power

SECTION 14.3

(a) The City shall not purchase, sell, or lease any real estate or any interest therein except by resolution concurred in by at least eight members of the Council.

(b) The City shall not sell without the approval, by a majority vote of the electors of the City voting on the question at a regular or special election, any City park, or land in the City acquired for park, cemetery, or any part thereof.

(d) Except as provided by ordinance authorized by Section 14.2 of this chapter, each contract for public improvements or for supplies or materials shall be let to the bidder that provides the best value to the City, after reasonable opportunity for competitive bidding. All bids shall be opened in public by the City Administrator, or if the City Administrator is absent or incapacitated, by the City Clerk. The Council may reject any or all bids if deemed advisable. If all bids are rejected, or if no bids are received, the Council may obtain new bids or authorize the City Administrator to negotiate in the open market for a contract at a reasonable price, or to purchase in the open market, or to have the work performed by city employees.

(e) No contract shall be made with any person who is in default to the City.

(f) No extra compensation shall be paid to any agent, employee, or contractor after the service has been rendered or the contract entered into;

Whereas, August 5, 2025 is available as an Election Date;

RESOLVED, That the following amended charter provision be placed on the ballot and submitted to the voters at the next available election date:

Limitations on Contractual Power

SECTION 14.3

(a) The City shall not purchase, sell, or lease any real estate or any interest therein except by resolution concurred in by at least eight members of the Council.

(b) The City shall not sell without the approval, by a majority vote of the electors of the City voting on the question at a regular or special election, any City park, or land in the City acquired for park, cemetery, or any part thereof.

(d) Except as provided by ordinance authorized by Section 14.2 of this chapter, each contract for public improvements or for supplies or materials shall be let to the bidder that provides the best value to the City, after reasonable opportunity for competitive bidding. All bids shall be opened in public by the City Administrator, or if the City Administrator is absent or incapacitated, by the City Clerk. The Council may reject any or all bids if deemed advisable. If all bids are rejected, or if no bids are received, the Council may obtain new bids or authorize the City Administrator to negotiate in the open market for a contract at a reasonable price, or to purchase in the open market, or to have the work performed by city employees.

(e) No contract shall be made with any person who is in default to the City.

(f) No extra compensation shall be paid to any agent, employee, or contractor after the service has been rendered or the contract entered into;

(g) The City is authorized to sell any of its interest in 319 South Fifth Avenue or 326 South Division Street only to the Ann Arbor District Library by resolution concurred in by at least eight members of the Council.

RESOLVED, That August 5, 2025 is designated as the day for holding an election on the proposed Charter amendment;

RESOLVED, That the Clerk shall transmit a copy of the proposed amendment to the Attorney General and the Governor of Michigan and shall perform all other acts required by law for holding the election;

RESOLVED, That the proposed Charter amendment shall appear on the ballot in the following form:

CITY PROPOSAL A

AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY TO THE
ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

Shall Section 14.3 of the City Charter be amended to authorize the City to sell its interests in 319 South Fifth Avenue or 326 South Division Street, commonly known as the Library Lane Parking Structure, only to the Ann Arbor District Library for the purpose of building a mixed-use development that includes additional library services, housing, retail, and programmable open public space? This proposal does not authorize new taxes. Adoption of this amendment is conditioned on adoption of City Proposal B at this election.

☐ Yes ☐ No

RESOLVED, That the proposed Charter amendment and proposed ballot question shall be published in full in the Washtenaw County Legal News and on the City's website; and

RESOLVED, That if the amendment is adopted, it shall take immediate effect.

Sponsored by: Mayor Taylor and Councilmembers Eyer, Harrison, Cornell and Akmon

At a regular session of the Ann Arbor City Council held on March 3, 2025, the foregoing resolution was moved by Councilmember Radina, seconded by Councilmember Disch, that this Resolution R-25-066 be approved.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Disch, Eyer, Radina, Harrison, Ghazi Edwin, Watson, Akmon, Cornell, Mallek, and Mayor Taylor, 10;

NAYS: 0;


ABSENT: Councilmember Briggs.

The resolution was declared adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, at its regular session of March 3, 2025.

March 12, 2025




Jacqueline Beaudry, Ann Arbor City Clerk