

# Council Consideration of Changes to Council Size & Mayoral Term

Town Council Meeting  
April 29, 2026



TOWN OF  
**CHAPEL  
HILL**

# Recommended Action

Council open the public hearing to receive input on proposed amendments to the Town Charter to **extend the Mayoral term from two (2) to four (4) years** and to **reduce the Council size from eight (8) to six (6) members.**

## Background & Context

- In 1975, Council amended Charter to increase number of Council seats from six to eight.
- In 2020, a Council seat became vacant and Council informally discussed moving back to six members but did not take action.

# Legislative Context

Town Charter can be amended by:

- 1) Asking the General Assembly
- 2) Amending ordinance by either Council vote and/or referendum

# Three Meeting Rule (160A-102)

## **First meeting**

Council adopts resolution of intent to consider Charter amendment

## **Second meeting**

Council holds public hearing to consider amendment

## **Third meeting**

Council adopts amendment or chooses to hold referendum

## **Potential Citizen Referendum**

Citizen petition w/signatures from 5,000 qualified voters would require a referendum

**Q. If Council decides to change the Mayor's term from two (2) to four (4) years, how could we execute that change?**

**A. We would execute this change on the 2027 ballot by electing a mayor to a four-year term.**

**Q. If Council decides to reduce its membership, how could we execute the change?**

**A. We've developed a recommendation that reduces your number to six with the 2027 election AND creates 3/3 staggered four-year terms by 2031.**

## RECOMMENDATION

- For November 2027, two council member seats on the ballot
- For November 2029, four council seats on the ballot
  - Three candidates w/highest number of votes = 4 year terms
  - Candidate w/fourth highest number of votes = 2 year term
- For November 2031, three council seats on ballot
- For November 2033, three council seats on the ballot

## 2027 & 2029 No Changes

2027	A	B	C	D
2029	E	F	G	H

## 2027 & 2029 With Changes

2027	A	B		
2029	E	F	G	H (2)

## MAYORAL TERM CHANGE

- Do you want to make this change?
- If so, do you want to make this change by ordinance\* or by calling a referendum?

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

- Do you want to make this change?
- If so, do you want to make this change by ordinance\* or by referendum?

\* The ordinance option could be subject to a referendum.

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