

# TRANSITION TO MAYOR/COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

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**Former Campaign Manager - Citizens For An Elected Mayor**

- Current form of government
- Elected mayor campaign
- Key provisions of the charter amendment
- Key components of the transition
- Timeline for implementation
- Key dates for 2021 candidates
- Vote YES on Issue 6!
- New voter responsibilities

# Current Council/Manager Form of Government

- ▶ The City of Cleveland Heights, since it was chartered in 1921, has operated under the council-manager form of government, which combines representative leadership through elected Council members with the professional managerial experience of a City Manager. The elected City Council appoints a professional City Manager to serve as the chief executive who implements Council policy and oversees the day-to-day operations of the City.
  - City Website
- ▶ Tanisha Briley was CM for 7 years. She recently took another CM position in Maryland. Briley was replaced on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> by Vice CM, Susanna Niermann O'Neil.

# Elected Mayor Campaign

- ▶ CEM 10 Member Committee (formed in 2018)
- ▶ Our Issues Were:
  - ▶ Accountability - Many voters wanted to choose who leads us (not council)
  - ▶ Leadership - Many felt that was missing
  - ▶ Responsiveness - Many felt their concerns went unanswered
  - ▶ Vision - Many felt we lacked direction
- Nov 5, 2019 Election Results:    YES 64%    No 36%

# Key Provisions of the Charter Amendment

- ▶ Mayor Elected Every 4 Years (no term limits)
- ▶ City Administrator Appointed By Mayor / Confirmed By Council
- ▶ Council Remains At-Large 4-Year Terms
- ▶ Current Mayor Becomes Council President (still chosen by council)
- ▶ Mayor Can Veto Legislation / Council Can Override Veto with 5+ Votes
- ▶ Mayor Serves As Safety Director (no additional pay)
- ▶ Mayor Is Full-Time CEO / Pay Is \$115,000 (if council passes ordinance)
- ▶ Mayor Must Live In CH for 18 Months Prior To Election Day
- ▶ Mayor Can Be Recalled
- ▶ CA Must Be Qualified Professional
- ▶ CA Supervises City Operations As Assigned By Mayor

# Key Components of The Transition

- ▶ Establish Salaries/Benefits for Mayor & City Administrator
- ▶ City Manager's Operations Document (for new mayor)
- ▶ Amend City Ordinances Directing CM
- ▶ Establish New City Ordinances (that establish the relationship between Mayor & Council)
- ▶ Update City Charter (checks & balances etc)
- ▶ Outreach to Other Cities Who Have Transitioned (best practices)
- ▶ Voter Education (this forum)

# Timeline for Implementing Mayor/Council Form of Government

- ▶ Salary for Mayor/CA - \$115K (Mayor) + Benefits (Oct 2020)
- ▶ Current Mayor Becomes Council President (Jan 1, 2021)
- ▶ Amend City Ordinances (2021)
- ▶ Need for New City Ordinances to Govern the Relationship Between Council & Mayor(?)
- ▶ Outreach to Other Transition Cities (ASAP)
- ▶ Amend City Charter(2021?)
- ▶ City Manager's Operational Guide (for new mayor / Nov 2, 2021)
- ▶ Voter Education/Engagement (Ongoing)

# Mayoral Election 2021 / Key Dates

- ▶ **March 18:** Begin collecting petition signatures. This is 180 days before the Primary Election.
- ▶ **June 16:** Last day to submit petitions to BOE. This is 90 days before the Primary Election.
- ▶ **Sept 14:** Non-Partisan Primary if three or more candidates run. The top 2 candidates face off in the General Election.
- ▶ **Nov 2:** General Election

# Issue 6!

- ▶ Vote YES on Issue 6! (Nov 3, 2020)
- ▶ Issue 6 clarifies the filing dates now that our charter has been amended to include an elected mayor



# New Voter Responsibilities

- ▶ Because the voters have chosen a new form of government, they are now responsible for electing the person who leads our city (not council). These responsibilities include:
- ▶ Being familiar with the issues facing our city
- ▶ Encouraging qualified candidates to run/Giving them support
- ▶ Scrutinizing the candidates during the election season
- ▶ Voting and encouraging others to vote (35% voted last year)
- ▶ Holding the mayor accountable after the election (staying engaged)
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandHeightsOH>