

Memorandum



Date May 2, 2014

To The Honorable Chair and Members of the Charter Review Commission

Subject **UPDATED:** Comparison of Top 5 Texas Cities Petition Verification Requirements

Listed below is an update to the information provided to you on April 18, 2014 following Commissioner Hart Black's request for more information on the prescribed number of days the City Secretary/City Clerk, according to its city charter, allows for petition verification for the top 5 Texas cities.

This update provides additional information for the Cities of Austin and El Paso, following discussions with the respective City Clerk/City Secretary on other matters which are addressed via separate memorandum on this same issue.

Rank	City	Population (2010 Census)	Initiative/Referendum Petitions No. of Days	Recall Petition No. of Days
1	Houston	2,100,263	30	
2	San Antonio	1,327,407	20	
3	Dallas	1,197,816	30	
4	Austin	790,390	30	
NOTE: Timeframe for referendum/initiative petitions is outlined in the in-office Standard Operating Procedures and not the City Charter. Therefore, for these petitions the timeframe could be changed at any time.				
5	Fort Worth	741,206	10	
6	El Paso	649,121	40 30 (1st Petition) / 20 (2nd Petition)	20 10
NOTE: Verification of 1 st filing on a referendum/initiative petition is 30 days; if City Council does not adopt the proposed change, does not present the item to the voters or rejects the petition overall, the filer is given another 20 days, under the same petition circulation process, to resubmit an exact replica of the petition with new signatures and the same signature requirement as the first petition. If the 2 nd petition is found to have sufficient signatures, it must be either approved by the City Council or presented to the voters.				

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Rosa A. Rios
City Secretary

- c: Bilierae Johnson, Assistant City Secretary
John Rogers, Assistant City Attorney
Anna Holmes, CRC Liaison, City Manager's Office