

City of Naples Charter Amendment Referendum

By Sandy Parker | Sparker's Soapbox | Published 2026-07-26

City of Naples voters will decide on Aug. 18, 2026, whether to remove the Mayor's and City Council members' exact salaries from the City Charter and give City Council the authority to adjust their compensation by ordinance, based on Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations, without a future referendum. All qualified electors of the City of Naples are eligible to vote on this referendum. A simple majority of votes cast is required for it to pass.

Research for this post was compiled with assistance from Claude (Anthropic AI), drawing on internet-accessible public sources. All information was reviewed and verified by the author.

The Referendum

Below is the Referendum question as it will appear on the ballot:

CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT POWER TO ADJUST CITY MAYOR AND COUNCIL SALARIES

Shall the City of Naples Charter, Article 2 (Council), Section 2.5 (Salary) be amended to adjust the salary and benefits of the Mayor and City Council by ordinance based on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee?

☐ YES.

☐ NO

Background: How This Got on the Ballot

Naples City Charter Section 2.5 currently writes specific dollar figures for the Mayor's and City Council members' salaries directly into the Charter. Since 1988, an independent seven-member Blue Ribbon Committee of Naples residents, appointed by City Council at least every four years, has studied and recommended what those figures should be; City Council has then adopted the Committee's recommendations by ordinance. Under the current figures, adopted in August 2022, the Mayor's salary is \$54,100 per year plus a \$400 monthly stipend, and a Council member's salary is \$43,300 per year plus a \$300 monthly stipend. ([Naples Charter Section 2.5](#); [Naples City Council: A Soapbox Primer](#)).

Each Council member appointed one representative to the 2025 Blue Ribbon Committee in August 2025; the committee met in September 2025 to review compensation and benefits for the Mayor and Council, and on Oct. 15, 2025, City Council voted 6-0 (Councilwoman Penniman was absent) to accept the

committee's recommendation: a 22 percent salary increase that would raise the Mayor's pay from \$54,100 to \$66,002 per year, with the mayoral stipend rising from \$400 to \$500 per month, and raise Council members' base pay to just over \$52,000 per year, with the stipend rising from \$300 to \$400 per month. The committee also recommended that Council members receive no pension benefit. ([Gulf Coast News Now](#); [10/15/25 City Council Meeting Agenda](#), [Minutes](#))

The city's original plan called for staff to draft an ordinance reflecting those new figures directly, with a first reading in December 2025 and a second reading in January 2026, and the raise taking effect once the new term began after the Feb. 3, 2026 municipal election ([Gulf Coast News Now](#)).

Because Charter Section 2.5 spells out specific dollar figures rather than leaving them to Council's discretion, however, changing those figures is itself a Charter amendment, and Florida law requires that municipal charter amendments be approved by voter referendum ([Naples Charter Section 2.5](#); [§ 166.031, Fla. Stat.](#)).

At its May 6, 2026, meeting, City Council unanimously approved a Charter amendment ordinance that would remove specific dollar figures from the Charter and give City Council standing authority to adjust compensation by ordinance going forward, based on future Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations. At the same time, it voted to place the charter amendment on the ballot for voter approval. ([5/6/26 City Council Meeting Agenda](#); [Ordinance](#); [Voting Record](#))

What This Would Do

A "yes" vote would remove the specific dollar amounts for Mayor and Council salaries and benefits from the City Charter and give City Council standing authority to adjust that compensation by ordinance, based on recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee, without returning to voters for approval.

This is a governance change, not a spending measure with its own separate cost. It does not itself set a new salary figure; it changes who has the authority to set future figures and how.

Arguments in Favor

The Blue Ribbon Committee process itself, an independent, resident-staffed body that reviews compensation at least every four years, has been used to recommend Mayor and Council pay since 1988, and this amendment does not change that underlying review process. What it changes is procedural: future adjustments recommended by that same committee could take effect by ordinance, rather than requiring a new Charter amendment and referendum each time dollar figures need updating.

Arguments Against

None found regarding the charter amendment itself.

What a “Yes” Vote Means / What a “No” Vote Means

A “yes” vote removes the specific salary and benefit figures from the City Charter and gives City Council the authority to adjust Mayor and Council compensation by ordinance, based on Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations, without a future referendum.

A “no” vote retains the current Charter language, meaning the specific dollar figures stay in the Charter and any future change to them would require another Charter amendment approved by voters.

Learn More

- [City of Naples Charter, Article 2](#)
 - [Naples City Council: A Soapbox Primer](#)
 - [Naples City Council approves 22% pay increase for mayor and council members, Gulf Coast News Now, 10/15/25](#)
 - [Naples City Council Meeting Agenda, 5/6/26](#)
 - [League of Women Voters of Collier County VOTE411](#)
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Summary

Registered voters residing within the City of Naples are eligible to vote on this referendum. A simple majority of votes cast is required for it to pass.