



# MAINSTREAM

Volume 39, Number 4, April 2018  
 A City of Mesquite, Texas Publication  
 City of Mesquite • 1515 N. Galloway Avenue • Mesquite, TX 75149

[www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)

## Special Edition ~ 2018 City Charter Election

In 2017, the Mesquite City Council approved a review of the City Charter. The City Charter is the governing document of the City of Mesquite. As a part of the review process, the City Council created a Charter Review Committee. The committee held a series of public input meetings. Visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/CityCharter](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/CityCharter) for more information on the City Charter review process and the Charter Review Committee Report.

Based on the results of the review, the City Council voted to place proposed changes to the City Charter before the voters.

Visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/CharterElection](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/CharterElection) for information on the Charter Election, voting dates, voting locations and more.

### Election Day Polling Locations

On Election Day, May 5, 2018, qualified voters who live in Mesquite must vote in their precinct where registered to vote. Polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### LOCATION OF ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES

#### Dallas County Precincts Located Within Mesquite City Limits

Polling Place	Address	Precinct No.
Florence Recreation Center	2501 Whitson Way	1139, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1305, 1315
Tosch Elementary School	2424 Larchmont Drive	1304, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1316
Galloway Elementary School	200 Clary Drive	1311, 1312, 1313, 1314
Dunford Recreation Center	1015 Green Canyon Drive	3300, 3301, 3302, 3303, 3304
W L Wilkinson Middle School	2100 Crest Park Drive	3305, 3306, 3307, 3315
Mesquite High School	300 East Davis Street	3308, 3309, 3310, 3311
Pirrung Elementary School	1500 Creek Valley Road	3312, 3316, 3318
Horn High School	3300 East Cartwright Road	3313, 3314, 3317

#### Split Precincts Voting Outside Mesquite City Limits

Polling Place	Address	Precinct No.
Edwin J. Kiest Elementary School	2611 Healey Drive, Dallas	1062
Living Waters Church of God	11110 Shiloh Road, Dallas	1125
George Truett Elementary School	1811 Gross Road, Dallas	1303
Classical Center at Vial Elementary	126 Creekview, Garland	1721
Sunnyvale Town Hall	127 North Collins Road, Sunnyvale	3500

#### Kaufman County Precincts Partially Located In Mesquite's City Limits

Polling Place	Address	Precinct No.
Horn High School	3300 East Cartwright Road	29

*(Precincts and Polling Places provided by the Dallas County Elections Department. Subject to change.)*



Stan Pickett  
Mayor



Jeff Casper  
Mayor Pro Tem,  
Place 2



Dan Aleman  
Deputy Mayor Pro  
Tem, Place 4



Robert Miklos  
Councilmember  
Place 1



Bruce Archer  
Councilmember  
Place 3



Greg Noschese  
Councilmember  
Place 5



Tandy Boroughs  
Councilmember  
Place 6

---

## City of Mesquite Proposition A

**Currently:** Members of the City Council, including the Mayor, can serve an unlimited number of two-year terms.

**Proposed Change:** A City Councilmember would be limited to four (4) consecutive two-year terms without taking a two-year break in service. The Mayor would be limited to four (4) consecutive two-year terms without taking a two-year break in service. No person could serve as a City Councilmember and as Mayor for more than eight (8) consecutive two-year terms without taking a two-year break in service. These new term limit rules would apply to existing members of the City Council, including the Mayor.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact is anticipated if this proposed amendment is approved at the election.

### Establishing a Maximum Number of Terms for City Councilmembers and the Mayor

Shall Section 9 of Article IV of the Mesquite City Charter be amended to provide that: no person may serve more than four (4) consecutive two-year terms as a city councilmember without a two-year break in service; no person may serve more than four (4) consecutive two-year terms as mayor without a two-year break in service; no person may serve more than four (4) consecutive two-year terms as a city councilmember and four (4) consecutive two-year terms as mayor, for a total of eight (8) consecutive two-year terms combined, without a two-year break in service; a term includes any period of service during a term; and term limits are to be applied retroactively?

---

## City of Mesquite Proposition B

**Currently:** The City Council has seven (7) members, with four (4) who represent specific geographic districts and three (3) others, including the Mayor, who represent the entire City. All members of the City Council, including the Mayor, are voted on at – large (by all voters in the City regardless of where those voters reside within the City). City district boundaries are reviewed and adjusted, if needed, every three (3) years.

**Proposed Change:** Six (6) geographical areas or districts would be created, with one City Councilmember representing each district. Only voters residing within a specific district would vote for the City Councilmember representing that district. Councilmembers representing a district would be required to reside in that district. The Mayor would represent the entire City and would be elected by all voters in the City. District boundaries would be reviewed every 10 years, and based on the results of the U.S. census, revised if needed.

**Fiscal Impact:** If this proposed amendment is approved at the election, there would be an estimated cost of \$50,000 to \$75,000 in fiscal year 2019 to redraw council district boundaries. In addition, there may be an additional cost of \$25,000 to \$50,000 if the districts need to be redrawn with any successive decennial census.

### City Council Structure

Shall Sections 2, 4, 4a, 4b, 5 and 10 of Article IV of the Mesquite City Charter be amended and a new Section 9b of that article be added to provide for the composition of the city council to consist of seven (7) members, with six (6) members elected by qualified voters of particular districts and one member as mayor elected by all qualified voters of the city; to create six (6) single member districts, of substantially equal total population; to provide for the review of the council district boundaries each ten years as census data is available; to provide residency requirements for city council candidates; and to provide implementation and transitional provisions?

---

## City of Mesquite Proposition C

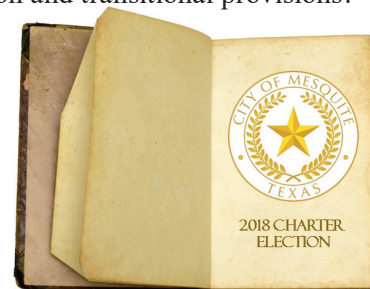
**Currently:** City elections are held in May of each year, and City Councilmembers and the Mayor serve staggered terms: Place Nos. 1, 2, 6, and the Mayor are elected in odd-numbered years and Place Nos. 3, 4, and 5 are elected in even-numbered years.

**Proposed Change:** City elections would be held in November of odd-numbered years, and all members of the City Council, including the Mayor, would be elected in the same year.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact is anticipated if this proposed amendment is approved at the election.

### Date of City Council Election

Shall Sections 7 and 9a of Article IV of the Mesquite City Charter be amended and a new Section 9b be added to that article to: require the regular municipal election to be held on the uniform election date, as provided by the general election laws of the State of Texas, in the month of November of odd-numbered years; to eliminate the staggering of city council terms; and to provide implementation and transitional provisions?



---

## City of Mesquite Proposition D

**Currently:** The City of Mesquite is required to staff a minimum of 1.5 police officers for every 1,000 residents of the City.

**Proposed Change:** The City of Mesquite would be required to staff a minimum of 1.6 police officers for every 1,000 residents of the City.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no immediate fiscal impact if this proposed amendment is approved at the election; however, based on current staffing levels and population projections, the proposed staffing requirement would begin to impact the City's operating budget in 2023 (six years earlier than the current Charter requirement of 1.5) and could cost an estimated \$3 million by the year 2040.

### Minimum Staffing Level in Police Department

Shall Section 24a of Article III of the Mesquite City Charter be amended to increase the minimum staffing level in the police department from a minimum of one and five tenths (1.5) full-time, sworn police officers per every 1,000 population to a minimum of one and six tenths (1.6)?

---

## City of Mesquite Proposition E

**Currently:** While the City Code establishes a City Attorney's Office, there is no such provision in the City Charter. Other officers appointed by the City Council are established by the City Charter. In addition, there is no provision recognizing that the City Attorney supervises and controls Assistant City Attorneys.

**Proposed Change:** The Office of the City Attorney would be established by the City Charter. The amendment would provide that the City Attorney supervises and controls Assistant City Attorneys.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact is anticipated if this proposed amendment is approved at the election.

### Establishing a City Attorney's Office

Shall Article IV of the Mesquite City Charter be amended to add a Section 35 to provide for the establishment of the office of the city attorney and assistants to the city attorney, as needed and budgeted by the city council, and amending Section 3 of Article VIII of the Mesquite City Charter to clarify that the city attorney shall exercise control over the City Attorney's Office?

---

## City of Mesquite Proposition F

**Currently:** The Charter limits contracts for goods, materials, services or supplies to one year.

**Proposed Change:** The Charter would not limit contracts for goods, materials, services or supplies to one year, allowing multi-year contracts for goods, materials, services and supplies.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact is anticipated if this proposed amendment is approved at the election.

### Deletion of the One-Year Contract Period Limitation

Shall Section 26(b) of Article III of the Mesquite City Charter be amended to delete the one-year limitation on any contract for goods, materials, services, or supplies for the current use of any department of the city?

---

## City of Mesquite Proposition G

**Currently:** Language in one provision of the Charter creates a potential internal conflict, while other language was created under state law that has changed. Current practices have been established to reconcile the conflict and to update practices in accordance with amended state law. The provisions in the Charter addressed by this proposition include the following: City Council voting and meeting requirements, Municipal Court name, jurisdiction, fines and authorized officiants, and the appointment requirements related to service on the City's Personnel Board.

**Proposed Change:** The Charter would be amended to conform to current practices for the following: City Council voting and meeting requirements, Municipal Court name, jurisdiction, fines and authorized officiants, and the appointment requirements related to service on the City's Personnel Board.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact is anticipated if this proposed amendment is approved at the election.

### Amendments to Conform to Actual/Current Practices

Shall the following sections of the Mesquite City Charter be amended to match actual practices: Section 28, "Additional Enumerated Powers; Penalties for Violations of Ordinances," of Article III, "Corporate Powers"; Section 17, "Legislative Procedure," and Section 27, "Creation and Jurisdiction of Corporation Court; Fines," of Article IV, "Officers and Elections"; and Section 2, "Personnel Board," of Article IX-A, "Civil Service?"



# City of Mesquite Proposition H

**Currently:** The City Charter contains language that refers to outdated state law and contains incorrect terms, misspellings, outdated or obsolete references, gender-specific terminology and technical errors.

**Proposed Change:** References to outdated state law, language containing incorrect terms, misspellings, outdated or obsolete references, gender-specific terminology and technical errors would be updated or corrected.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact is anticipated if this proposed amendment is approved at the election.

## Technical Amendments to Conform to State Law and City Code; to Correct Terms; to Correct Spelling; to Clarify Language; to Provide Gender-Neutral References; and to make other Technical Amendments

Shall the following sections of the Mesquite City Charter be amended to conform to state law and the city code, correct terms, correct spelling, clarify language, provide gender-neutral references, and make other technical amendments: Section 3, "Platting of Property," of Article II, "Municipal Boundaries"; Section 8, "Liability for Negligence," Section 12, "Street Improvements and Assessments therefor," Section 15, "Regulation of Privately Owned Public Utilities," Section 16, "City Owned Public Utilities," Section 24, "Police Department," Section 26, "Contracts Generally," and Section 27, "Zoning," of Article III, "Corporate Powers"; Section 1, "Governing Body," Section 2, "Elective Officers," Section 3, "Qualifications and Nomination of Mayor and Councilmen; Official Ballot," Section 3a, "Holding other

Office," Section 4c, "Nominations," Section 5, "How Candidates Elected," Section 6, "Judge of Election; Canvass of Returns," Section 7, "Date of Election," Section 9, "Term of Office of Incumbent Mayor and Councilmen," Section 9a, "Terms of Mayor and Councilmen to be Staggered," Section 10, "Vacancies in Office," Section 11, "Mayor Pro Tem," Section 12, "Compensation of Mayor and Councilmen," Section 13, "Duties of Mayor," Section 22, "Depository for City Funds," Section 25, "City Secretary," Section 26, "City Treasurer," Section 27, "Creation and Jurisdiction of Corporation Court; Fines," Section 28, "Title of Code of Criminal Procedure Controlling," and Section 34, "Personal Financial Interest," of Article IV, "Officers and Elections"; Section 2, "Tax Levies," Section 7, "Payment of Taxes," and Section 8, "Delinquent Taxes," of Article V, "Taxes and Taxation"; Section 1, "Generally," of Article VI, "Recall"; Section 3, "Powers and Duties," and Section 6, "Absence," of Article VIII, "City Manager"; Section 2, "Jurors, etc. Not Incompetent," and Section 6, "Amendments to Charter," of Article IX, "General Provisions"; Section 3, "Personnel Director," Section 6, "Civil Service Rules," and Section 8, "Trial Board," of Article IX-A, "Civil Service?"



## Frequently Called City Phone Numbers

Mesquite Municipal Center	972-288-7711
Animal Services	972-216-6283
Building Inspection	972-216-6212
Environmental Code Hotline	972-216-6276
Main Library	972-216-6220
Parks and Recreation	972-216-6260
Planning and Zoning	972-216-6216
Police Non-Emergency	972-285-6336
Trash Collection/Recycling	972-216-6284
Street/Alley Repair	972-216-6282
Water Billing	972-216-6208
Water Leaks/Sewer Back-ups	972-216-6278

## General Election

The annual municipal election to elect Councilmembers for Places 3, 4 and 5 will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018.

### 2018 City Council Candidates

#### City Council, Place 3

\*Bruce Archer

#### City Council, Place 4

Shannon Long

\*Daniel Aleman, Jr.

#### City Council, Place 5

Janice Bell

\*Greg Noschese

*\*Incumbent*

For more information, call the City Secretary's Office at 972-216-6444.