

TO: All Northfield Village Voters
FROM: Jesse J. Nehez, Mayor
DATE: October 1, 2013
RE: November 5th Election, Proposed Charter Amendment, Issue 28

The Village Charter is the constitution by which the Village of Northfield operates. The Charter requires that it be reviewed on a regular basis by the Village's Charter Review Commission and Council for the purpose of making the document as relevant as possible for the Village and its residents. In 2013, a Charter Review Commission, appointed by the Mayor and Council and made up of four volunteer Village electors not employed by the Village or holding any other Village office, reviewed the Charter.

The Charter Review Commission made one recommendation for an amendment to the Charter. The amendment was submitted to Council by the Charter Review Commission and was forwarded by Council to the Board of Elections for placement on the November 5, 2013 Election ballot.

The Charter cannot be amended without voter approval. This letter serves as an attempt to familiarize you with the Charter issue that you will see on your November 5, 2013 ballot referenced as Issue Number 28. I have provided the ballot language, the text of the Charter Amendment, and a brief description of what the amendment proposes to accomplish. The proposed amendment is as follows:

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 3.01 of the Village's Charter be amended to change the commencement date for the term of office of the Village's Mayor from December 1 to January 1 commencing with the 2019 Mayoral election.

Text of Amendment:

SECTION 3.01 ELECTION AND TERM.

The Mayor shall be elected at each regular Municipal election for a term of four (4) years, which term shall commence on December 1 next following his or her election and terminate four (4) years hence. Commencing with the 2015 mayoral election, the Mayor's term shall be for four (4) years and one (1) month, and he or she shall hold office until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The Mayor elected at the 2019 mayoral election and all subsequent regular Municipal elections shall be elected for a term of four (4) years, which term shall commence January 1 next following his or her election, and he or she shall hold office until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

Explanation: This proposed amendment changes the commencement date of the Mayor's four year term, starting in 2019/2020, from December 1 to January 1. The amendment was proposed to align the start date of the Mayor's term with the start date of the terms for newly elected Councilpersons. A Charter amendment was approved by the Village electorate at the 2012 General Election that changed the start date for new Council terms from December 1 to January 1. That amendment, like the present one, was proposed to bring the Village's Charter into conformance with a great majority of municipal Charters in Ohio that provide for elected officials' terms to start on January 1 rather than December 1. Council felt that the December 1 commencement date created confusion, since most other elected officials in the State of Ohio's terms start on January 1.

Should anyone have questions about the above amendment or desire to review the ordinance that certified the placement of this amendment on the November 5th ballot, please feel free to call the Clerk of Council, Monica James, or come into Village Hall during normal business hours. Village employees will be happy to assist you in any way we can to better understand this important issue that will appear on the November 5th ballot.

Thank you for your interest in reviewing this correspondence. I urge everyone to exercise their right to vote on November 5, 2013.

Mayor Jesse J. Nehez