

(First Published in the Columbus News Report \_\_\_\_\_, 2016)

**CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 1377**

**A CHARTER ORDINANCE TRANSITIONING THE ELECTION CYCLES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS, TO NOVEMBER EVERY YEAR AND PROVIDE FOR STAGGERED TERMS FOR ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS.**

WHEREAS, Charter Ordinance 1250, Section 2, and Code 2014, Chapter VI, Section 6-105, of the Code of City Ordinances of the City of Columbus, Kansas shall be repealed and replaced for the purpose of transitioning nonpartisan election cycles to November every year and maintaining staggered terms for elected City officials.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS:

Section 1. The City of Columbus, Kansas, by the power vested in it by Article 12, Section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, hereby elects to and does exempt itself from the provisions of K.S.A. 14-201 and K.S.A. 25-205 concerning the terms of office of non-partisan elective officials. Such statutory sections are applicable to this City but are not uniformly applicable to all cities.

Section 2. **New Code Section 6-105.** (a) The governing body of Columbus, Kansas, shall consist of a mayor and 10 council members, 2 from each of the 5 wards, to be elected to staggered, two-year terms set forth herein. The mayor and council members shall be residents and qualified electors of the City of Columbus, Kansas.

(b) Those governing body positions with terms originally expiring in April, 2017, shall expire on the second Monday in January of 2018, when the City officials elected in the November, 2017, general election take office. Those governing body positions with terms originally expiring in April, 2018, shall expire on the second Monday in January of 2019, when the City officials elected in the November, 2018, general election take office.

(c) A general election of City officers takes place on Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November, 2017, for governing body positions whose terms will expire on the second Monday in January, 2018. Succeeding elections will be held every year for all such governing body positions whose terms will expire on the second Monday in January of every year thereafter. One council member from each ward shall be elected at one election, and the other council member from that ward shall be elected at the next November election. The council members shall have two-year terms. The Mayor shall have a two-year term.

(d) All elections for the City of Columbus, Kansas, shall be nonpartisan.


Section 3. **New Code Section 6-106.** The declaration of intent to become a candidate for City office, where a primary election is not authorized, shall be filed with the Cherokee County election officer not later than 12 noon, June 1, prior to the November general election. If such date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, then the filing shall be made before noon of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

Section 4. This charter ordinance expressly amends Charter Ordinance number 1250, Section 2, recently re-codified by City Code 2014 at Article VI, Section 6-105, heretofore passed by the Governing Body of the City of Columbus, Kansas, and there is hereby expressly repealed all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.

Section 5. This Charter Ordinance shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official City newspaper

Section 6. This Charter Ordinance shall take effect 61 days after the final publication unless a sufficient petition for a referendum is filed, requiring a referendum to be held on the ordinance as provided by Article 12, Section 5, Subsection (c)(3) of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, in which case this Charter Ordinance shall become effective upon approval by the majority of the electors voting thereon.

**PASSED and APPROVED** by the Governing Body, not less than two-thirds of the members elect voting in favor thereof, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.



Dexter Opela, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Cherry Chancellor, City Clerk  
Cherry