

CHARTER OF CITY OF CLEVELAND

Chapter 5 — The Council

§ 25 DIVIDING THE CITY INTO ~~TWENTY-ONE~~ FOURTEEN WARDS AND THREE AT LARGE POSITIONS; STAGGERED TERMS

(a) The Council shall consist of seventeen (17) members, fourteen (14) of whom shall be elected by wards and three (3) of whom shall be elected by the electors of the City at large. The Council not later than ~~July 15, 1981~~ April 1, 2009, and thereafter immediately after the proclamation by the Secretary of State stating the population of cities of Ohio, as determined by the Federal census decennially taken, shall redivide the City into 2+14 wards. The wards so formed shall be as nearly equal in population as may be fair and equitable, composed of contiguous and compact territory, and bounded by natural boundaries or street lines. When any territory is annexed to the City the Council shall by ordinances declare it a part of the adjacent ward or wards. If the Council fails or neglects to redivide the City into 2+14 wards by July 15, 1981 April 1, 2009, the Mayor shall within 7 days thereafter submit to Council the plan for redividing the City into 2+14 wards, which division plan of the Mayor shall become effective until the next decennial Federal census when the wards shall be reapportioned as provided in Section 25-1. ~~The 2+ Councilmen~~ fourteen (14) members of Council to be elected to represent City wards and the three (3) members of Council to be elected at large under the terms herein shall be elected at the next regular Municipal election in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Charter of the City of Cleveland. The division of the City into wards existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment shall continue until changed as provided herein.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter to the contrary, for the regular Municipal election to be held on November 3, 2009, the terms of office of the seven (7) members of Council representing even numbered wards and two (2) of the members of Council elected at large shall be two years and the terms of office of the remainder of the members of Council shall be four years. The terms of office of all members of Council elected at regular Municipal elections to be held thereafter shall be four years.

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE (MAYOR'S TERM DIFFERENT FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL):

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter to the contrary, the terms of office of the members of Council elected at the regular Municipal election to be held on November 3, 2009 shall be two years. The terms of office of all members of Council elected at regular Municipal elections to be held thereafter shall be four years.

§ 25-1 REAPPORTIONMENT OF WARDS

Commencing with the Federal census decennially taken in the closest proximity to January 1, ~~1980~~2010, and following each subsequent Federal decennial census the Council within ~~three months~~forty-five days after proclamation by the Secretary of State stating the population of the cities of Ohio as determined by any such Federal census shall reapportion the wards of the City so that the wards so formed shall be as nearly equal in population as may be, composed of contiguous and compact territory, and bound by natural boundaries and street lines.

If the Council fails to reapportion the wards within the ~~three month~~forty-five day period herein provided, the Mayor shall within ~~30~~ten business days thereafter submit to Council a plan for the reapportionment of the wards. The Council shall within ~~30~~ten business days after receiving the Mayor's plan, reapportion the wards as herein provided. If the Council does not reapportion the wards within this latter ~~30~~ten business day period, the reapportionment plan of the Mayor shall become effective until the next decennial Federal census when the wards shall be reapportioned as herein provided.