

Pros & Cons: City of North Olmsted Charter Amendments, 3 November 2020

In keeping with its mission to provide citizens with nonpartisan information about candidates and ballot issues, the Westlake/North Olmsted Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland offers the following pro and con arguments for the proposed charter amendments that will be on the November 3, 2020 ballot for the City of North Olmsted.

19

Shall Article I of the Charter of the City of North Olmsted be amended to eliminate procedures for detachment of lands that are in conflict with the general law procedures established in the Ohio Revised Code?

PRO

Assures conformity of charter with current Ohio Revised Code.

CON

May result in future conflict between local realities and state law if detachments of lands are proposed.

20

Shall Article IV, Section 7 of the Charter of the City of North Olmsted be amended to authorize the City Council to meet at such times and at such locations and/or via electronic methods in accordance with rules, regulations, ordinances or by-laws adopted by Council?

PRO

Allows Council to meet in emergency situations using 21st century meeting methods.

CON

Makes it more difficult for residents to participate in meetings, particularly those without access to necessary technology.

21

Shall Article XV of the Charter of the City of North Olmsted be amended to establish that Commission member appointments be made prior to January 1st, and to further require that the Charter Review Commission's final report be submitted to the City Council not later than May 31st in the year of review?

PRO

Provides more time for Charter Review Commission to study charter provisions and recommend revisions.

CON

May still not provide sufficient length of time for careful review.

22

Shall Article XV of the Charter of the City of North Olmsted be amended to authorize the City Council to establish, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members eligible to vote, that any public meeting by a public body may be conducted via teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, provided citizen access to such meetings is ensured and open meetings laws, including notifications, are otherwise followed?

PRO

Allows Council to meet in emergency situations to continue their responsibilities in a timely manner.

CON

Makes it more difficult for residents to participate in meetings, particularly those without access to necessary technology.