



CITY OF SANTA FE

Memorandum

Date: May 30, 2025

To: Governing Body and Quality of Life Committee

From: Marci Eannarino; Legislation and Policy Innovation Manager ME

Via: Erin K. McSherry; City Attorney EM

RE: Ballot question to require consent to a mayor's removal of a city manager, city attorney, or city clerk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The resolution proposes to submit a ballot question to the City of Santa Fe ("City") voters during the November 4, 2025, regular election. Currently, Section 5.01(G), of the City's Charter allows a mayor to "have the authority to remove the city manager, city attorney and city clerk without council approval". The ballot question would amend the City's Charter to require governing body consent before removal of a city manager, city attorney, or city clerk.

BACKGROUND:

The process for placing a question on the ballot considers the following items:

- Section 10.02 of the City's Charter states, "This Charter may be amended or repealed as provided by law. The city attorney shall review and render and publish a public opinion as to the legality and form of any proposed charter amendment before it is submitted to the voters."
- State law, NMSA 1978, Section 3-15-16 states that a home rule municipality may amend its Charter "by a proposal submitted by the governing body of the municipality to the qualified electors."
- Therefore, a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body describing a proposed ballot question is the mechanism the City uses to document its wish to submit a proposal to the electors.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Fiscal Impact Report