

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-__**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Councilor Alma Castro

6 Councilor Michael Garcia

7 Councilor Pilar Faulkner

8
9
10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **PROPOSING A BALLOT QUESTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY’S VOTERS**
12 **DURING THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025, REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION REGARDING**
13 **AMENDING THE CITY’S CHARTER TO LIMIT THE MAYOR’S AUTHORITY TO**
14 **VOTE TO WHEN THERE IS A TIE.**

15 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body wants to distinguish mayoral and city councilor powers
16 by limiting the mayor’s ability to vote only when there is a tie; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body has identified the Mayor’s voting rights portion of the
18 City Charter (“Charter”) as a first step to distinguishing councilor and mayoral powers; and

19 **WHEREAS**, on August 22, 2023, at a Special Meeting, the Governing Body agenda
20 included a resolution that proposed that the voters of Santa Fe consider the following amendment
21 to Article V, Section 5.01, (B) during the regular local election in November of 2023:

22 B. Have a vote on matters on which there is a tie vote among city councilors;

23 [~~all matters that come before the governing body;~~]; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the resolution containing the amendment above was not adopted; and

25 **WHEREAS**, to limit the mayor’s ability to vote only when there is a tie, Article 5.01 of

the Charter should be amended to read as follows:

5.01. - Powers and duties.

The city shall have a mayor who shall:

- A. Be elected at large by the voters of the city;
- B. ~~[Have a v]~~ Vote only in the case of a tie in [all] matters that come before the governing body;
- C. Be the chief executive officer of the city whose position shall be full-time;
- D. Earn an initial salary of \$74,000.00 until such time that an independent salary commission is established by city ordinance and such commission sets the salary for mayor;
- E. Appoint with the consent of the governing body, the city manager, city attorney, city clerk, and members of advisory commissions;
- F. Exercise supervisory authority over the city manager, city attorney and city clerk;
- G. Have the authority to remove the city manager, city attorney and city clerk without council approval;
- H. Cause the ordinances and regulations of the city to be faithfully and constantly obeyed;
- I. Have, within the city limits, the power conferred on the sheriffs of counties to suppress disorders and keep the peace;
- J. Propose programs and policies to the governing body;
- K. Represent the city in intergovernmental relationships;
- L. Present an annual state of the city message which shall identify, among other matters, the mayor's legislative agenda for the upcoming year;
- M. Work with city personnel and timely prepare an annual budget and

1 proposed spending priority for review and approval by the finance
2 committee and the governing body;

3 N. Be recognized as head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes;
4 and

5 O. Be recognized by the governor for purposes of military law.

6 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body wishes to submit the above recommended amendment
7 to the City’s voters for approval; and

8 **WHEREAS**, a resolution adopted by the Governing Body describing a proposed ballot
9 question is the mechanism the City uses to document that wish to submit a proposal to the electors;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, NMSA 1978, Section 1-16-3, requires the City to “file a resolution proposing
12 the ballot question” with the county clerk, not less than seventy (70) days before the election at
13 which the Governing Body proposes a ballot question for the voters’ consideration.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
15 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body hereby proposes to submit the following question
16 on the ballot of the regular local election on November 4, 2025:

17 **MAYOR VOTING RIGHTS**

18 Should the Santa Fe Municipal Charter be amended to only allow
19 the Mayor to vote to break a tie amongst city councilors for
20 matters that come before the governing body?

21 For ☐ Against ☐

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that should the electorate vote in favor of the above
23 question, then the City’s Charter shall be amended as follows:

24 **5.01. - Powers and duties.**

25 The city shall have a mayor who shall:

- A. Be elected at large by the voters of the city;
- B. ~~[Have a v]~~ Vote only in the case of a tie in [all] matters that come before the governing body;
- C. Be the chief executive officer of the city whose position shall be full-time;
- D. Earn an initial salary of \$74,000.00 until such time that an independent salary commission is established by city ordinance and such commission sets the salary for mayor;
- E. Appoint with the consent of the governing body, the city manager, city attorney, city clerk, and members of advisory commissions;
- F. Exercise supervisory authority over the city manager, city attorney and city clerk;
- G. Have the authority to remove the city manager, city attorney and city clerk without council approval;
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- N. Be recognized as head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes;

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and

O. Be recognized by the governor for purposes of military law.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ANDRÉA SALAZAR, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Erin McSherry
Erin McSherry (Jul 25, 2025 11:10:04 MDT)
ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY