




# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

## Memorandum



**Date:** June 24, 2022

**To:** Quality of Life Committee, Finance Committee, and Governing Body

**From:** Erin K. McSherry, City Attorney 

**RE:** A Resolution Establishing the Manner of Appointing a Charter Review Committee and Identifying Certain Topics for the Commission's Consideration

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The proposed Resolution establishes the manner of appointing a Charter Review Committee as required by Section 10.01 of the Santa Fe Municipal Charter.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Santa Fe became a "Home Rule Municipality" when its registered voters adopted a Charter in 1997. The City's Charter is its structural document, establishing durable policy positions; citizen rights; the form and manner of election; elected and appointed officers and their powers and duties; and manner of Charter amendment.

Under the New Mexico State Constitution, municipalities with a charter have the maximum possible local self-governance under New Mexico law. *See* N.M. Const. Art. 10, Section 6.

The City's Charter, Article 10.01, states that "[a] charter review commission shall be appointed as needed, but not less frequently than every ten years. The governing body shall by resolution determine the manner of appointment of the commission, provided that there shall be an odd number of commissioners."

The Governing Body appointed the last Commission's membership on October 30, 2012, and November 28, 2021. Therefore, in order to meet the Charter's ten-year timeline, the next Commission should be appointed by October of 2022.

The proposed resolution would require that, by September 2, 2022, each city councilor nominate three candidates who are residents of the councilor's district and have a demonstrated interest or background in city government generally or the City of Santa Fe specifically. From that pool of nominees, the Mayor would appoint nine commissioners, at least one from each city councilor's nominees and one at-large representative, with the approval of the Governing Body. The appointments would be required, to the extent possible, to have a variety of governmental interests and knowledge, and a diversity of backgrounds.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the Resolution as presented.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution  
Fiscal Impact Report