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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-59**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilor Pilar Faulkner

Councilor Alma Castro

**A RESOLUTION**

**CONVENING A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION NO LATER THAN APRIL OF 2026  
TO CONSIDER MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILOR POWERS.**

**WHEREAS**, the voters of the city of Santa Fe adopted the City of Santa Fe’s Municipal Charter (“Chater”), at a special municipal election held on December 9, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter states that it may be “amended or repealed as provided by law” and NMSA 1978, Section 3-15-16, provides that the governing body of a home rule municipality may amend its Charter by submitting a proposal to the qualified electors; and

**WHEREAS**, the voters of the City of Santa Fe (“City”) amended the Charter in elections in 2008, 2014, 2018, and 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 10.01 of the Charter calls for the Governing Body to appoint a charter review commission (“Commission”) “as needed, but not less frequently than every ten years”; and

**WHEREAS**, a Commission may review and recommend to the Governing Body the adoption of ballot questions regarding proposed Charter amendments for the electorate of the city of Santa Fe to consider; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that members of the Commission be residents of the city of

1 Santa Fe; that, to the extent possible, they have either an interest, knowledge, or training in local  
2 government or law or a personal knowledge of the government of the City of Santa Fe; and that  
3 they represent a variety of backgrounds and perspectives; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Charter Commission Report included a recommendation to  
5 “provide for a separation of powers between the executive and the legislative branches of City  
6 government” and to “[c]reate a new Article V to replace current Articles V-VIII, entitled  
7 GOVERNANCE with these sections: The Legislative Branch, [and] The Executive Branch”, and  
8 the Governing Body wishes to renew the conversation on the topic; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Charter Commission Report states that there was a “short period  
10 of time” to make recommendations; and

11 **WHEREAS**, a resolution about the commission’s recommendation to “provide for a  
12 separation of powers” was item 9g at the Special Governing Body meeting on Tuesday, August 22,  
13 2023, and the Resolution that described the recommendation noted that the Charter Commission’s  
14 recommendation presented changes that required “additional time for review and consideration”;  
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body wishes to dedicate additional time to the topic of  
17 separation of powers, and to consider a balance of powers, by convening a Commission to review  
18 the separation and balance of powers between the mayor and city councilors.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
20 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that a Charter Review Commission shall be convened consistent with  
21 Section 10.1 of the City’s Charter, including the following parameters:

22 **Section 1. NAME:** The commission shall be called the Charter Review Commission  
23 (“Commission”).

24 **Section 2. PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Commission is to review the City’s  
25 Charter and determine whether to recommend changes to Charter modify the Mayor’s and the City

1 Councilors' powers and duties.

2           **Section 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Commission shall review the  
3 Mayor's and Councilors' duties and powers established in the Charter any amendments proposed  
4 by members of the Governing Body and the public on those topics, focusing on separation of  
5 powers and balance of powers between the mayor and city councilors. The Commission shall  
6 complete its review and prepare a report of the Commission's recommendations regarding  
7 proposed Charter amendments no later than April 1, 2027, such that the Governing Body may  
8 consider and adopt the recommendations for consideration during the November 2027 election.  
9 After receiving the report, the Governing Body shall consider the proposals and vote on resolutions  
10 regarding placing the proposed amendments on the ballot for vote by its electorate. The  
11 Commission recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, the powers and duties of the  
12 mayor and city councilors, including the following:

- 13           A. Whether there should be separation of powers or balance of powers as between the  
14 mayor and city councilors;
- 15           B. Whether the City's mayor should have a purely executive role, rather than both a  
16 legislative and executive role and, if so, what new powers and limitations should  
17 be adopted along with such a separation of powers;
- 18           C. Whether the mayor, city manager, or the city councilors should propose the City  
19 budget and what should be required in the budget's development;
- 20           D. Whether the City should adopt a strategic plan, and, if so, who should put it forward  
21 for review, and how often should it be updated;
- 22           E. Whether a city councilor who is running for mayor should be required to give up  
23 their city council seat; How to fill vacant council seats; and
- 24           F. Who has the power to appoint, dismiss, and supervise the city manager, city  
25 attorney, and city clerk.

1           **Section 4.       MEMBERSHIP; OFFICERS; TERM:**

2           **MEMBERSHIP:** As is consistent with Section 10.01 of the Charter, the Commission  
3 “shall consist of nine members, one selected by each member of the governing body.” The  
4 appointees shall be residents of the city of Santa Fe, and, to the extent possible, either have an  
5 interest, knowledge, or training in local government or law or have personal knowledge of the City  
6 government.

7           **OFFICERS:** The commissioners shall elect one member to be their chair and one member  
8 to be vice-chair.

9           **TERM:** The members of the Governing Body shall appoint commissioners no later than  
10 April 1, 2026, and the commissioners shall conclude their term by April 1, 2027.

11           **Section 5.       ABSENCES:** Failure to attend three consecutive regular meetings or  
12 thirty-three percent (33%) or more of the Commission’s regular meetings shall constitute an  
13 automatic tender of resignation by such member, which the Governing Body may accept or reject  
14 at its discretion.

15           **Section 6.       VACANCIES:** Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the  
16 member of the Governing Body who appointed the commissioner who held the vacated position.

17           **Section 7.       MEETINGS; DURATION; QUORUM:** The Commission shall meet at  
18 least once per month, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and any other applicable City  
19 policies and procedures and “hall hold no less than two meetings in each of the city’s council  
20 districts, for the purpose of taking input from the public.


21           **Section 8.       STAFF LIAISON:** The City Manager shall identify no fewer than two employees  
22 to work alongside the City Attorney or City Attorney’s designee to assist the Commission to  
23 perform research and drafting functions for the commission.

24           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City shall advertise the creation of the  
25 Commission and its functions on a dedicated page of the City’s web site, and the page shall allow

1 for the public to submit proposed amendments.

2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as is consistent with Section 10.01 of the Charter,  
3 the “governing body shall consider and vote upon proposing the commission’s recommended ballot  
4 questions.”

5  
6 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.

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10 Alan Webber (Sep 28, 2025 14:20:03 MDT)  
11 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

12 ATTEST:

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14   
ANDREA SALAZAR (Sep 25, 2025 09:23:32 MDT)

15 ANDRÉA SALAZAR, CITY CLERK

16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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18   
Erin McSherry (Sep 26, 2025 18:28:13 MDT)

19 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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24  
25 *Legislation/2025/Resolutions/ 2025-59 (R)/Call for Charter Review Committee to Review Mayor & Councilor powers*