



Fellow Garden Ridge Residents,

March 7, 2023

Last October, the Garden Ridge City Council established a Home Rule Charter Commission to develop a document to define organization, powers, functions, and procedures for city government. Currently, our city is a General Law Type A municipality with limited ability to govern ourselves outside of state statutes. In contrast, Home Rule Cities are empowered to legislate at the local level with deference to the State Constitution. Examples of additional powers through Home Rule include:

- **Recall.** Any elected city official shall be subject to recall and removal from office by the registered voters of the city on grounds of incompetency, misconduct, or malfeasance in office.
- **Initiative.** Voters may initiate legislation by submitting a petition addressed to the City Council requesting the submission of a proposed ordinance to a vote of the registered voters of the city.
- **Referendum.** Voters may require any ordinance passed by the City Council and subject to the initiative process under this Charter be submitted to the registered voters of the city for approval or disapproval, by submitting a petition within sixty (60) days after final passage of said ordinance.

In short, these powers allow for the removal of a city official, the opportunity to propose legislation, and the ability to change or eliminate ordinances. The Charter also addresses government structure, term limits, and various administrative procedures.

The Home Rule Charter will be on the ballot in a special election on May 6, 2023. The ballot for this special election will give you the opportunity to vote "Yes" or "No" to adopt the Charter for the City of Garden Ridge.

I encourage all of you to read it so you are familiar with its contents prior to the special election. A Town Hall meeting discussing the Charter will be held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 6:00pm. This meeting will also be streamed live and recorded for later reference. Additional information is available for you on our city website at www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us or scan the QR code to learn more!

Very Respectfully,

Robert R. Erickson
Mayor, City of Garden Ridge