Charter Amendment Factsheet

Lincoln City voters will consider five proposed City Charter changes during the May City General Election. None of these proposed Charter changes would result in significant changes to City operations. Instead, they are proposed in order to eliminate outdated or unnecessary language or ideas.

Repeal of Article IV, Section 6 would remove language requiring Lincoln City Council members to post a surety bond as a requirement for serving on the City Council. Even if this section is repealed, Council members are still required to have the modest bond under a provision of state law.

Repeal of Article IV, Section 17 would remove language that gives the Mayor and Chief of Police the authority to draft any citizen to aid in suppressing a riot or to help enforce any City law. The Charter now requires citizens to respond if so ordered or to face a $100 fine.

Repeal of Article VIII, Section 13a would remove language authorizing the City to own and operate a coal yard. This provision was passed in 1922 in response to complaints that the price of coal in Lincoln was too high, but a City coal yard was never established.

Repeal of Article IX, Section 3f would remove language authorizing the City to issue up to $1.5 million in bonds for a new City auditorium without further voter consent. This was passed prior to the construction of Pershing Auditorium and was never utilized as the voters passed a bond issue in order to build Pershing.

Amend the Charter to add a new Article XII to clarify that language in the Charter that refers to “he” or “his” is intended to be gender neutral and should be interpreted as such.

Taken together, if these five Charter amendments pass, they will result in a slightly shorter City Charter by eliminating some sections which have been out of date or unnecessary for decades.