



Charter Commission Meeting

March 2, 2026 at 7 p.m.
7071 University Avenue N.E.

Agenda

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13.02 the March 2, 2026 meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Commissioners Rick Nelson and Pam Reynolds will be attending via Zoom. Virtual:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85935397766?pwd=mTeeNIA1ou8f8RYbDLI7LtywjOLXHn.1>

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Administrative Matters

1. Election of Officers
2. Updated Member List
3. Chapters by Last Review Date

Old Business

4. Chapter 5 Subcommittee Report

New Business

5. Preparing for April 6, 2026 Joint Meeting with the Fridley City Council

Future Meeting Topics/Communications

6. Future Meeting Topics

Adjournment

Accessibility Notice:

- If you need free interpretation or translation assistance, please contact City staff.
- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cove neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or (763) 572-3450.

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: March 2, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Election of Officers

Background

Pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Commission's Bylaws, officers of the Commission are to be elected at the Annual Meeting in March. At its February 2 meeting, the Commission approved a motion accepting the Nominating Committee's report. Nominated were Brad Bremener for Chair, Nikki Karnopp for Vice Chair and Mohammed Barre for Secretary. Past practice has been for the Commission to also allow for nominations from the floor.

Section 6 subd. (a)(6) of the Bylaws directs the Chair to ask for a committee of two to count ballots. If this evening's meeting has remote attendance, all commissioners must fill out a ballot and read their votes aloud.

All officers are elected by a simple majority and begin their terms of office upon election.

Recommendation

Staff recommend any further nominations from the floor be added. Staff recommend a committee of two to read aloud ballots to be reflected in the minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

1. Election of Officers Official Ballot

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

City of Fridley Charter Commission
Ballot for Election of Officers – March 2, 2026

Voting Commission Member Name: _____

Please select one per category.

Chair: Brad Bremener

Nomination(s) from the floor _____

Vice Chair: Nikki Karnopp

Nomination(s) from the floor _____

Secretary: Mohammed Barre

Nomination(s) from the floor _____

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: March 2, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Updated Member List

Background

An updated member list is provided with an updated phone number for Commissioner Schmitz.

Recommendation

Attachments and Other Resources

1. 2026 Fridley Charter Commission Member List

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.



Charter Commission Membership

Name/Address	Ward	Phone	Email	Appointed	Term Exp.
Mohamed Barre 7509 Lyric Lane NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	(h) 612-242-1513 (w) 612-348-4997	Junlay99@aol.com	02-06-23	02-06-27
Brad Bremener 6831 East River Road Fridley, MN 55432	3	(h) 574-276-0485	Brad.bremener@gmail.com	1-13-25	1-13-29
Donald Findell 6850 Siverts Lane Fridley, MN 55432	2	(h) 763-571-0467 (c) 612-867-9954	donfinder@aol.com	06-16-97 02-21-01 05-04-05 02-04-09 05-24-13 05-03-17 05-01-21 05-01-25 05-01-25	05-11-01 05-01-05 05-01-09 05-01-13 05-01-17 05-01-21 05-01-25 05-01-29
Gregory Gardner 5829 Hackmann Ave. N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	2	(c) 901-517-3254	gardnergregg@msn.com	03-01-22 02-02-26	03-01-26 02-02-29
Nikki Karnopp 482 Rice Creek Terrace N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	1	612-709-6452	nikkikarnopp@gmail.com	02-03-20 02-03-24	02-03-24 02-03-28
Steven Kisner 5871 W. Moore Lake Drive Fridley, MN 55432	2	763-300-8888	spkisner@yahoo.com	01-10-23	01-10-27
Ted Kranz 6701 Monroe Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	1	(h) 763-571-4387	tkranz1@comcast.net	08-11-06 03-29-10 10-21-14 04-06-18 04-22-22	04-22-10 04-22-14 04-22-18 04-22-22 04-22-26
Dave Linton 6521 Clover Place NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	(h) 763-571-7431 (c) 763-843-3415	Dwlinton99@gmail.com	05-20-24	05-20-28
Audrey Nelson 250 61 st Avenue NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	763-574-1388	audmnelson@gmail.com	01-10-24	01-10-28
Rick Nelson 4624 2 ½ Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55421	3	(c) 612-963-2487	rickvan16@hotmail.com	05-12-11 02-13-12 05-27-16 02-21-20 02-21-24	02-13-12 02-21-16 02-21-20 02-21-24 02-21-28



Charter Commission Membership

Pam Reynolds 1241 Norton Avenue N.E. Fridley, MN 55432	2	(c) 763-222-9386	fnpam@hotmail.com	05-12-05 03-22-07 04-04-11 05-04-15 11-04-19 10-02-23	05-01-07 05-01-11 05-01-15 05-01-19 11-04-23 10-02-27
Valerie Rolstad 1100 Lynde Drive Fridley, MN 55432	2	(c) 612-799-5993	valerier13@gmail.com	02-15-17 05-03-17 05-01-21 05-01-25	05-01-17 05-01-21 05-01-25 05-01-29
Douglas Schmitz 7311 Tempo Terrace NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	612-430-5055	schmitzdouglas@gmail.com	01-10-24	01-10-28
Natividad Seefeld 1106 Onondaga Street NE Fridley, MN 55432	2	763-494-1119	Mexicali3367@yahoo.com	11-03-25	11-03-29
Kathy Smith 7350 Melody Drive NE Fridley, MN 55432	1	612-590-4721	ksmith1883@gmail.com	05-20-24	05-20-28

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: March 2, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Chapters by Last Review Date

Background

At the February 2, 2026 meeting, Commissioners asked Staff to provide a table of chapters of the Charter and when they were each last reviewed. Attached is a table showing the chapters and most recent review dates.

Recommendation

Attachments and Other Resources

1. Charter Amendments by Date

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

Chapter	Last Amended
1 – Name, Boundaries, Powers and Construction of Government	5/3/2024
2 – City Council	3/13/2017
3 – Procedure of Council	7/14/2008
4 – Nominations And Elections	3/29/2024
5 – Initiative, Referendum And Recall	Currently under review
6 – Administration of City Affairs	2/22/2016
7 – Taxation And Finances	1/22/2018
8 – Public Improvements And Special Assessments	9/10/2018
9 – Eminent Domain	10/5/1989
10 – Franchises And Public Utilities	10/25/1976
11 – Public Ownership And Operation Of Utilities	12/2/2013
12 – Miscellaneous Provisions	5/10/2021

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: March 2, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Chapter 5 Subcommittee Report

Background

The Subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Bremener, Karnopp, Linton and Smith will provide an update on the proposed changes to Chapter 5 and a response to the Mayor and City Council's questions and concerns. Attached is their report, supporting documentation and drafted slides to share with the City Council in April. They are seeking feedback from the Commission on this PowerPoint.

Recommendation

Attachments and Other Resources

1. Subcommittee Report Regarding Chapter 5 Changes
2. History of Chapter 5 Changes
3. Ballot Questions
4. Proposed Chapter 5 Revision Overview - Google Slides

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

Subcommittee Findings

The information below provides written documentation of the Charter Committee's rationale for making the Percentage Changes of signatures required and changing what election would be used for the percentage count. Other changes made clarify the information making it easier for the reader to understand the information and seem acceptable to the City Manager (Wally Wysopal) and the City Council.

The change to how a petition is counted and the % required happened in Ordinance 1305 dated 5/2/2013. The Charter Commission's minutes reflect on how the changes were made.

Summary of minutes from the January 7, 2013 meeting

- Ms. Skogen (City employee) stated that, "...change it from a percentage of the registered voters to a percentage of the votes cast at the last general election so it was consistent with a charter amendment. This would mean that it would be the same number of signatures throughout the year rather than getting numbers on a given day, as each day in the State Voter Registration System would be different. And for purposes of the Charter, you would have to print a report on January 1st to have the correct number, as you cannot go back in time to find the numbers."
- "Commissioner Holm said they did not want to make it easier than it was today. He said if you assume 75% of the population votes in a general election and you get 10% number; it comes out to 7 ½ people per 100 and if you took 15% of that number it would be 10 per one hundred and that it was equivalent to 10% of the registered voters at any one time."
- "Commissioner Flickinger said 15% of those that voted care, the 10% of the registered voters that may not vote, don't care and will sign a petition. He felt the number reflected should be from the people who have voted that really care about Fridley and feel the percentage is the same."

Summary of the minutes from February 4, 2013 Meeting

- "Ms. Skogen said that 15% of the total votes cast at the election would be the same as 10% of the registered voters on January 1st."
- "The Commissioners felt the process should be serious and not easy to obtain and frivolous."

Approved petitions go to the voters in Fridley for acceptance or rejection. So regardless of the number of names on a petition Fridley's registered voters make the final acceptance/rejection.

According to Melissa Moore, there have been **four Charter Amendments** that have been put on the ballot since 2000. **These amendments required 5%** of the total number of votes cast at the last state general election. Three of the four passed via ballot vote. There was **one Initiative to repeal an Ordinance (1999) requiring 15%** of the total number of votes cast at the last state general election. This initiative passed. Also recorded were two Petition for ballot (Springbrook and allowing the City to increase water, sanitary, sewer and storm water rates) – both passed.

The above information is given because the Charter Committee feels it is important to understand the historical trend where Chapter 5 rules have been applied.

The table below outlines the changes made to Chapter 5 regarding the percentage of votes cast as well as the type of election. The role of the Charter Committee is to represent the residents of Fridley. The changes below ensure that representation is obtained.

Chapter Section	As Written	Proposed Changes
Section 5.05 FORM OF PETITION AND SIGNATURE PAPERS	Such petition shall not be complete unless signed by at least fifteen present (15%) of the total number of votes cast at the last state general election in the City.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title changed to: "Section 5.05 Form of Initiative Petitions." Change was made to the last Presidential election. Change was made from 15% of the last state general election in the City to 5% of the total number of votes cast in the last Presidential Election in the City.
Section 5.06. FILING OF PETITIONS AND ACTION THEREONthis number is at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of votes cast at the last state general election in the City.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title change to: Section 5.06 Filing of Initiative Petitions The number of signatures is at least 5% of the total number of votes cast at the last Presidential Election in the City.
Section 5.07. ACTION OF THE COUNCIL ON INITIATIVE PETITIONS	A. Completed Petition with Signatures under 25% B. Completed Petition with Signatures of 25% or More	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title change to: Section 5.07 Action of the Council on Sufficient Initiative Petitions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5-15% Signatures greater than 15%
Section 5.09. INITIATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS	The ways to initiate amendments to this Charter are set forth in Minnesota Statutes. (Ref. Ord.857, 914.)	Procedure to initiate amendments to this Charter are set forth in State law. It is 5%.
Section 5.10. THE REFERENDUM	If prior to the date when an ordinance takes effect a petition signed by at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total votes cast at the last state general election in the City request that any such ordinance be repealed or be submitted to a vote of the electors, the ordinance shall thereby be prevented from going into operation. (Ref. Ord. 857, 1142, 1305)	Title change to: Section 5.10 Referendum Petitions An ordinance will be void if prior to the effective date of the ordinance, 5% of the total votes cast at the last Presidential Election file a petition to request it be repealed or be submitted to a vote of the electorate.
Section 5.12. FILING OF REFERENDUM PETITIONS 2. REFERENDUM PETITION PROPOSING REPEAL OF AN ORDINANCEat least fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of votes cast at the last state general election in the City.at least five % of the total number of votes cast at the last Presidential Election in the City.
Section 5.17 RECALL PETITIONS	The petition for the recall of any elected official....signed by at least twenty five (25%)	There was no change to this section.

REASONS BEHIND THE ABOVE STATED CHANGES

Type of Change	Reason for the change
<p>Changing the “last state general election” to last Presidential election</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing of a petition should have no bearing on the required percentages required. The current language denotes multiple types of elections (local, general, gubernatorial, etc.). Changing the method to the last Presidential election levels the playing field and helps with community engagement. <p>Example: 2018 – General Election – 11,855 ballots cast (15% = 1,778) 2020 – Presidential – 15,145 (15% = 2,271)</p>
<p>Changing the percentage for “non charter amendments” from 15% to 5%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impracticality of using 15%. If Fridley is going to have initiative and referendum provisions they need to be practical, and a reasonable person should feel they can obtain the number. • Being practical – AI research as well as firsthand campaigning activities show that for every 100 doors knocked 15 open. <p>Using the 2024 Presidential election 15% of the votes would require 2,080 signatures. Changing this to 5% still presents a challenge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 693 signatures would require 4,620 doors or more to be knocked on, discussions held and signature obtained/not obtained. Therefore, 693 signatures is a high bar to reach but not unobtainable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting civic engagement. Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses – as such it is important that the residents can voice their views.

Date	Type	Ordinance Number	Section	Election	% of Registered Voters	# of Registered Voters	# of Votes Cast
9/24/1957	Initiative	Original Charter	5.05 -FORM OF PETITION AND OF SIGNATURE PAPERS	Registered Voters as of Jan 1 of that year	10%	See note 1 below	N/A
9/24/1957	Initiative	Original Charter	5.06 – FILING OF PETITONS AND ACTION THERON	Registered Voters as of Jan 1 of that year	10%	See note 1 below	N/A
9/24/1957	Initiative Petition	Original Charter	5.07 – ACTION OF COUNCIL ON PETITION Council fails to pass/or changes Vote of electors at the next regular municipal election	Registered Voters	-	See note 1 below	N/A
9/24/1957	Initiative Petition	Original Charter	5.07 – ACTION OF COUNCIL ON PETITION Council fails to pass/or changes Special Election	Registered Voters	Over 15%	See note 1 below	N/A
9/24/1957	Charter Amendments	Original Charter	5.09 – INITIATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS	Right of electors under the constitution and statutes of Minnesota	-	N/A	N/A
9/24/1957	Referendum	Original Charger	5.10 – THE REFERENDUM	Registered Voters	15%	See note 1 below	N/A
			5.12 – NO SUCH SECTION IS IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT – NUMBER IS SKIPPED				

Date	Type	Ordinance Number	Section	Election	% of Registered Voters	# of Registered Voters	# of Votes Cast
9/24/1957	Filing of recall petition	Original Charger	5.15 – FILING OF PETITION	Registered Voters	25%	See note 1 below	N/A
11/3/1976	Initiative	625	5.05 – FORM OF PETITION AND OF SIGNATURE PAPERS	Registered Voters as of January 1	10%	See note 2 below	N/A
11/3/1976	Initiative	625	5.06 – FILING OF PETITIONS AND ACTIONS THEREON	Registered Voters as of January 1	10%	See note 2 below	N/A
-	-	-	5.07, 5.09, 5.10, 5.12, 5.15 – NO CHANGE	-	-	-	-
6/23/1986	Initiative	857	5.05 – FORM OF PETITION AND OF SIGNATURE PAPERS	Registered Voters as of January 1	10%	See note 3 below	N/A
6/23/1986	Initiative	857	5.06 – FILING OF PETITIONS AND ACTION THEREON	Registered Voters as of January 1	10%	See note 3 below	N/A
6/23/1986	Initiative	857	5.07 – ACTION OF THE COUNCIL ON PETITIONS Council fails to pass/or changes Vote of electors at the next regular municipal election	Registered Voters as of January 1	-	See note 3 below	N/A
6/23/1986	Initiative	857	5.07 – ACTION OF COUNCIL ON PETITION Council fails to pass/or changes Special Election	Registered Voters as of January 1	Equal to or over 15%	See note 3 below	N/A

Date	Type	Ordinance Number	Section	Election	% of Registered Voters	# of Registered Voters	# of Votes Cast
6/23/1986	Charter Amendments	857	5.09 – INITIATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS	Electors changed to Eligible Voters	-	-	-
6/23/1986	Referendum	857	5.10 – THE REFERENDUM	Registered voters as of January 1	15%	See note 3 below	N/A
-	-	-	5.12 – NO CHANGE	-	-	-	-
6/23/1986	Recall	857	5.15 – RECALL PETITION Changes made other than to the %	Registered voters as of January 1	25%	See note 3 below	N/A
8/10/1988	Charter Amendments	914	5.09 – INITIATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS	Changed it to say “Charter are set forth in Minnesota Statutes.”			
7/27/2000	Initiative	1142	5.05 – NO CHANGE	-	-	-	-
7/27/2000	Initiative	1142	5.06 – FILING OF PETITIONS AND ACTION THEREON	Registered voters as of January 1	10%	18,686 See note 4 below	N/A
7/27/2000	Initiative	1142	5.07 – ACTION OF THE COUNCIL ON PETITIONS Council fails to pass/or changes Vote of electors at the next regular municipal election	Registered voters as of January 1	-	-	-
7/27/2000	Initiative	1142	5.07 – ACTION OF COUNCIL ON PETITIONS	Registered voters as of January 1	At least 15%	18,686 See note 4 below	N/A

Date	Type	Ordinance Number	Section	Election	% of Registered Voters	# of Registered Voters	# of Votes Cast
			Council fails to pass/or changes Special Election				
7/27/2000	Charter Amendments	1142	5.09 – INITIATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS	Referenced Ord. 857 & 914	-	-	-
7/27/2000	Referendum	1142	5.10 – THE REFERENDUM	Registered voters as of January 1	15%	18,686 – See note 4 Below	-
7/27/2000	Referendum	1142	5.12 – FILING OF REFERENDUM PETITIONS	Registered voters as of January 1	15%	18,686 – See note 4 Below	-
7/27/2000	Referendum	1142	5.17 – RECALL PETITIONS	Registered voters as of January 1	25%	18,686 – See note 4 Below	-
7/24/2008	Expenditures by Petitioners	1252	5.02 – Expenditures by Petitioners	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/a
7/24/2008	Action of the Council on Petitioners	1252	5.07 – Action of the Council on Petitions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/a
5/2/2013	Initiative	1305	5.05 – FORMS OF PETITION AND OF SIGNATURE PAPERS	Total votes cast at the last state general election	15%	-	Need to find the number
5/2/2013	Initiative	1305	5.06 – FILING OF PETITIONS AND ACTIONS THEREON	Total votes cast at the last state general election	15%	-	Need to find the number
5/2/2013	Initiative	1305	5.07 – ACTION OF COUNCIL ON INITIATIVE PETITIONS	A. total votes cast at the last	A. Not less than 15% and	-	Need to find the number

Date	Type	Ordinance Number	Section	Election	% of Registered Voters	# of Registered Voters	# of Votes Cast
			Council fails to pass/or changes Special Election A. Completed Petition With Signatures under 25% B. Completed Petition With Signatures of 25% or More	state general election B. total votes cast at the last state general election	less than 25% B. Equal to at least 25%		
	Charter Amendment	-	5.09 – INITIATION OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS No change				
-	Referendum		5.10 – THE REFERENDUM No Change				
5/2/2013	RECALL PETITIONS	1305	5.17 – RECALL PETITONS	Votes cast in the last state general election	No Change stayed at 25%	-	Need to find the number

Note 1 - Precise data on the exact number of registered voters in Fridley, MN, for the specific year of 1957 is not available in public online sources. Voter registration data from that era is typically maintained as historical archival material rather than being widely published online in statistical form.

However, historical context indicates that 1957 was a significant year for Fridley.

- The **Village of Fridley** officially became a Home Rule Charter City in 1957.

Note 2 - The specific number of registered voters in the City of Fridley in 1976 is **not directly available** in the provided sources. However, a significant amount of context regarding Minnesota's voting in 1976 is available.

- In the 1976 general election, Minnesota set a record of **1,978,590 voters who participated** statewide, giving it the highest percentage of citizen turnout in the nation.
- 1976 was also a presidential election year, and it was noted that more than one in five voters in Minnesota registered on Election Day, a practice first used statewide in 1974.
- Fridley is located in Anoka County. Around 2008, Anoka County had approximately 185,000 registered voters, but a specific number for Fridley in 1976 is not specified.

For detailed historical precinct-level data, including the number of registered voters in Fridley in 1976, you may be able to consult the physical copies of the *Minnesota Legislative Manual* for 1977-1978, which recorded votes precinct by precinct. These manuals are available from sources such as the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library.

Note 3 - The exact number of registered voters for the City of Fridley in 1986 is **not readily available** in public online sources. This data is generally part of historical election records which are not always digitized at a granular city level.

Note 4 - The **City of Fridley** had a total of **18,686 registered voters** for the General Election held on November 7, 2000.

Date	Why	Votes Y/N	Ballot Question (paraphrased to reduce length)	NOTES
9/10/57	Adoption of Home Rule Charter	136/64	Should Fridley become a home rule charter?	Special election required for acceptance
11/3/59	Assumed to be council resolution due to taxation	780/643	11/3/59 - Park Bond Issue (\$150k)	Levy was in excess of charter (chapter 7 / taxation related), added to ballot by resolution.
4/12/60	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	164/30	Proposal 1 – Mayor starts term on 1 st business day of January	Passed – no minutes pre-1970
4/12/60	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	142/49	Proposal 2 – Hold a primary if 4 or more candidates, not less than 14 days prior to general election	Passed – no minutes pre-1970
4/12/60	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	135/56	Proposal 3 – Hold a primary if 3 or more candidates not less than 30 days prior to election	Passed – no minutes pre-1970
4/12/60	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	71/120	Proposal 4 – Power to raise money by taxation pursuant to laws of the state, shall not exceed 4% + can	Failed – no minutes pre-1970
4/12/60	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	147/45	Proposal 5 – Council shall constitute a board of equalization and shall meet to equalize the assessed valuations according to laws, and a published notices of such meeting at least 15 days prior to said meeting	Passed – no minutes pre-1970
3/27/61	Assume added via council resolution	1226/100	Continue to operate municipal liquor store rather than issue private licenses	Added to ballot by resolution

10/10/61	Assume added via council resolution	53/93	10/10/61 – Shall the north suburban hospital district be authorized to borrow money and issue its general obligation in an amount not to exceed \$1.85mm to provide funds to be used, with proceeds of any federal grant or any other funds which might be received for the acquisition and betterment of hospital facilities?	Voters choose the hospital board rep. See Elections/Canvas Board
10/4/62	Assumed to be council resolution due to taxation	824/254	Park Bond Issue - Can the city borrow money not to exceed \$150k for improvements/additions to the park system.	Levy was in excess of charter (chapter 7 / taxation related), added to ballot by resolution.
10/5/63	Assume added via council resolution	1603/693	Shall the City of Fridley withdraw from the North Suburban Sanitary Sewer District	
1963	Petition for referendum – 1162 signatures	(found when searching for ordinance for the above)		Opposition to ordinance 230 (related to Uniform Suburban Gas Franchise). Declared invalid b/c it was 1.5 hours late (and council didn't want to listen to the petitioners) See Agenda from 4/15/1963
9/8/64	Assumed to be council resolution due to taxation	1508/1003	Borrow Money in amount not to exceed \$500k to construct a City Hall	Levy was in excess of charter (chapter 7 / taxation related), added to ballot by resolution. Added to primary ballot – why would that happen??
11/3/64	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	7613/1078	Nomination petitions must be submitted to city between 90-120s before general election	
11/2/65	Assumed to be council resolution due to taxation	City Center Project 1555/3916 Univ Av Project 1537/3938 Riverview Heights Project 1436/4043	\$380k for parks, playgrounds, rec, community, education, water/sewer/drainage facilities in connection with a housing and redevelopment (then it cut off)	Levy was in excess of charter (chapter 7 / taxation related), added to ballot by resolution. Prior to TIF laws being enacted (1979)
9/13/66	Assumed to be council	Univ/64 th = 3307	9/13/66 – City Hall Location	

	resolution due to taxation Resolution 135-66	Univ/69 th Locke Park No preference = 599		
1968	Assumed to be council resolution due to taxation	467/637	Park bonds - \$1.5mm	Levy was in excess of charter (chapter 7 / taxation related), added to ballot by resolution. Council meeting 6/12/68 minutes page 2-6
8/19/69	Assume added via council resolution	1184/392	Should the city authorize on-sale liquor license to hotels and restaurants	
11/7/72	Assume added via council resolution	5628/5594	Shall Fridley adopt an ordinance granting a franchise...operate and maintain community television system in the city setting forth conditions accompanying grant of franchise...Chapter 10 of City Code	Required per Charter
11/7/72	Assume added via council resolution	7807/3655	Authorize on-sale liquor licenses to hotels and restaurants to permit sale of liquor in conjunction	
11/5/74	Assume added via council resolution	4502/3837	Shall the city council be allowed to issue on-sale licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor at retail in excess of the # now permitted by law	
11/5/74	Assumed to be council resolution due to taxation	Nature Center = 5924 Golf Course = 2764	Should North Park be developed into a Nature Center	
3/25/75	Citizens Petition for proposed amendment to city charter, section 2.05	247/88	If a vacancy is declared, call a special election to be held not less than 45 days more than 60 days from when the vacancy is declared. The winner of said election shall be qualified and take office immediately upon certification by the board of canvass and shall fill the unexpired term.	5% per state statute = 443, Obtained 635, some were invalid but there were still enough valid signatures to pass. Charter commission met with petitioners to try and change the proposal.
2/16/82	Assumed to be council	379/5572	Should the City of Fridley issue general obligation bonds in amount of	Levy was in excess of charter (chapter 7 / taxation related), added to ballot by resolution.

	resolution due to taxation		\$4.85mm for the construction of a community rec center	
7/18/89	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	706/237	Hold city elections every two years concurrent with state general elections instead of every year and change to 4 year terms (vs 3 yr terms) starting in 1991 and stagger so no more than 3 are elected in any year.	
11/6/90			Columbia Heights school district levy	
11/3/92			Fridley SD – guessing it's a levy/bond/referendum but it's cut off.	
1/11/94			Special election for councilmember ward 3 – Bolkcum wins with 203 votes to fill vacant seat until regular election	
1999	Initiative to repeal Ord 1130	577/2799	Imposing franchise fees on utilities.	15% of registered voters (3157 signed petition)
2000	Citizen petition for charter amendments per state statute	7878/4598	By Petition, it has been proposed that the Charter of the City of Fridley be amended to require, in addition to the current requirement of a 4/5ths Council vote before the rate of inflation can be exceeded, an election and approval by the voters of the City in any case where the City Council determines that a tax levy in excess of the lesser of the rate of inflation or 5% is a necessity. In addition, the proposal would amend the City Charter to require an election and approval of all fees created, or increased beyond the lesser of the rate of inflation or 5%, with certain enumerated exceptions. The term "fees" under this proposal includes, but is not limited to sales and use taxes, business and occupation taxes, excise taxes, impact fees, license fees, permit fees, and any discretionary charge by the city government.	5% of registered voters (1002 signed)
2004	Assumed to be council resolution due to taxation	8192/4518	The Council of the City of Fridley has proposed to increase its tax levy for general city purposes by \$275,000 beyond the indexed limit allowed by the City of Fridley Charter. The add'l revenue will be used to fund the administration, maintenance, and	Levy was in excess of charter (chapter 7 / taxation related), added to ballot by resolution.

			programming of the Springbrook Nature Center. The proposed referendum revenue	
2004	Referendum to repeal Ord 1196	5001/7794	On 6/28/04, the City Council approved an Ordinance, reviewed and approved by the City's Charter Commission, that would amend the Fridley City Charter to permit the City to pass through, the full amount of any sewer, recycling, and other utility charge increases at their actual cost to the City if those exceeded the lesser of 5% of the rate of inflation. The Fridley Charter currently would require voter approval of any such increase before it could become effective. Expenses for any such utility cost increases would otherwise have to be born by other revenues of the City, including general property taxes. A Petition objecting to the adopted ordinance signed by 460 voters was brought, suspending the Ordinance until the City Council could bring the matter to the voters for their approval. Shall the following ordinance be approved?	5% of voters (460 signatures)
2006	Assume added via council resolution	5134/5029	The City is required to run the water, sanitary sewer, and storm water operations like a business. Due to the City Charter limitation on rate increases, the operation lost approximately \$500,000 in 2005. The City expects similar or greater losses in 2006 and beyond unless these rates are raised as follows: water .16 per 1,000 gallons used, sanitary sewer .32 per 1,000 gallons of water used, and storm water .13 per quarter per residential property.	
2007	Referendum to repeal Ord 1244	1737/801	Shall the Fridley City Charter be amended to eliminate utility rate restrictions and allow the City Council to establish rates that cover the cost of operations?	5% of registered voters (284 signatures)
2009	Referendum to repeal Ordinance No. 1260,	936/1416	Shall the Fridley Charter be amended to allow the City Council to bring revenue issues to the voters in special election which will be won or lost by a majority of those voting on the question?	Updated Section 7.02 of the Charter (Power of Taxation) to allow the Council to call for a special election and to change the threshold for a successful measure. A referendum petition was submitted.



Proposed Chapter 5 Revision Overview



Agenda

- Initiative, Referendum, and Recall are critical tools of the Charter
- A history of Chapter 5 Changes
- A history of Initiative, Referendum, and Recall in Fridley
- Our goals for change:
 - Basic clarity
 - Smooth petitioner experience
 - Improve process accessibility
- Understanding the time required to petition
- Q&A

Initiative, Referendum, and Recall are Critical Tools of the Charter

From a recent League of Minnesota Cities training:

Charter creation can also require a petition:

- 10% of city voters in the last state election

State Statute defines Charter Amendment

Petition size:

- 5% of city voters in the state election

CHARTER CITY ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Solution for Local Issues• Encourages An Informed Electorate• As Simple or Complex As the City Needs• May Provide for Initiative, Referendum, and Recall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costly• Applicability of Statutes, Court Rulings, and Attorney General Opinions is Less Clear• Skillful Drafting More Difficult With Fewer Resources• Amendments/Abandonment are Time-Consuming, Complicated, and Difficult to Pass

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES

LMC



A History of Chapter 5 Changes

Chapter 5 has also been reviewed many times in regard to petitions, but only substantially changed once

1957: 10% of registered voters (15% for Referendum, 25% for Recall)

1976: Values unchanged

1986: Values unchanged


2000: Values unchanged

2008: Values unchanged

2013: 15% of total votes cast at the last general election for both Initiative and Referendum

- While we agree that the shift from registrations to votes cast was a good change this also represented a significant increase in difficulty since 2013

Year	Persons Voting	Registered Voters	10% Registered Voters (prior)	15% Persons Voting (2013 change)	5% Persons Voting (proposed)
2012	14356	18112	1811	2153	718
2024	13869	16565	1657	2080	693



A History of Initiative, Referendum, and Recall in Fridley

The lower threshold for initiative petitions specifically for Charter Amendments only requires 5% of votes cast in the last state election in the city (State Statute)

- Used 6 times since 2000
- Wide use, varied requirements
 - Smallest only required 284 signatures

The most recent use of non-Charter Amendment petitions was a Referendum in 1999 which required 15% of registered voters

This is the broken incentive - it is MUCH easier for citizens to modify the charter than it is to interact with other legislation



Our Goals for Change

- Basic clarity improvements
- Smooth petitioner experience
 - Change from General to Presidential Elections
- Improve process accessibility
 - Using a Presidential Election basis is an increase for 2 of the 4 years
 - Lowering the threshold required for Initiative and Referendum from 15% to 5% Voter Signatures to match the Charter Amendment Petition Level



General Election to Presidential Election Shift

- Election participation shifts greatly between Presidential and non-Presidential elections

Election	Votes cast	5% (proposed for initiatives & referendum)	15% (current for initiatives & referendum)	25% (current for recall and will remain the same)
2024 Presidential Election	13,869	693	2,080	3,467
2022 General Election	10,304	515	1,545	2,576
2020 Presidential Election	15,145	757	2,271	3,786
2018 General Election	11,855	592	1,778	2,963

- There should not be an incentive to do work in particular years just to reduce the burden of signature gathering
- Going forward we will refer to 700 Signatures for Proposed and 2100 signatures for Current



Improve Process Accessibility

- Gathering signatures is not the same as informational canvassing for an upcoming vote
- Let's understand this effort fully with estimates:
 - A canvasser can knock on 25 doors per hour (Perfect case: 25 signatures per hour)
 - If 15% of doors open and 75% of folks can sign (Realistic case: ~4 signatures per hour)

	Perfect Current	Realistic Current	Perfect Proposed	Realistic Proposed
Hours of Effort	84 hours	525 hours	28 hours	175 hours

- Although this *feels* like a big reduction the amount of effort required is still very high
- Reminder that this is only the initiation of the process



Q&A

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: March 2, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Preparing for April 6, 2026 Joint Meeting with the Fridley City Council

Background

At its October 6, 2025 meeting the Commission approved a motion to set a joint meeting with the Fridley City Council. To effectively use both group’s time, staff recommend the Commission collaborate on discussion topics it would like to discuss with the Council.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the Commission consider any topics it may wish to discuss with the Council on April 6, 2026.

Attachments and Other Resources

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.

AGENDA REPORT



Meeting Date: March 2, 2026
Meeting Type: Charter Commission
Submitted By: Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Title: Future Meeting Topics

Background

Future meeting topics requested by Commissioners:

- Candidate interview process
- Next chapter to review
- Commission Onboarding Manual
- Meeting schedule cadence

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly, and stable home for families and businesses.