



STATE AND REGIONAL MUNICIPAL TERM LIMITS & LENGTHS

July 16, 2020

Arlington Term Limits

- No term limits for Arlington City Council before 2018
- Term limits through citizen petition-initiated charter election (November 2018)
- Petition circulated and organized by citizens
- Over 11,000 Signatures
 - 9,000+ *Certified Signatures*
- Proposition E (98,609 Votes)
 - 63% *In Favor*
 - 37% *Against*
- Texas Constitution, Article 11, Section 5(a)
 - *Furthermore, no city charter shall be altered, amended or repealed oftener than every two years.*



Arlington Term Limits

Charter Art. IV – Municipal Government

- § 4. Terms of Office: All elective officers, under this Charter, shall serve, after the first election as herein provided for, **the term of two years**, and until their successors have been elected and qualified.
- § 9. Term Limits: **No person shall serve as Mayor for more than three (3) elected terms, and no person shall serve as a Council Member for more than three (3) elected terms. Under no circumstances may any person ever serve for more than twelve (12) years in combination as a Council Member and Mayor.** For purposes of this section and computing the limitations on terms:
 - *(1) a Mayor or Council Member who vacates, for any reason the office before the end of the term for which he was elected shall be considered to have completed that term.*
 - *(2) an appointment or election to fill an unexpired Council Member term, or unexpired Mayor term if applicable, shall be computed as follows:*
 - a. if fifty percent (50%) or more of the term is remaining, it shall be included in the computation of term limits; or
 - b. if less than fifty percent (50%) of the term is remaining, it shall not be included in the computation of term limits.
 - *(3) Council Member terms are counted by including together terms served as both single-member and at-large districts.*



Arlington Term Limits

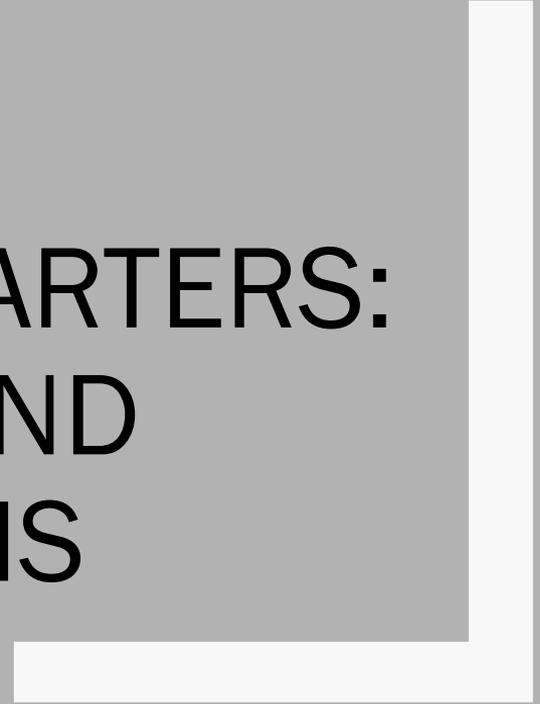
Charter Art. IV – Municipal Government *cont.*

- The term that each person as Mayor or as a Council Member is currently filling, and all terms served prior to that current term, shall be counted for purposes of determining whether three (3) terms have been served. This amendment shall become effective immediately upon adoption at the next municipal election, shall apply to all persons currently occupying the Office of Mayor or Council Member, and shall apply to all municipal elections conducted after the date of adoption. Any resident of the city may seek injunctive relief to enforce this prohibition. (Adopted by Charter Amendment November 15, 2018)

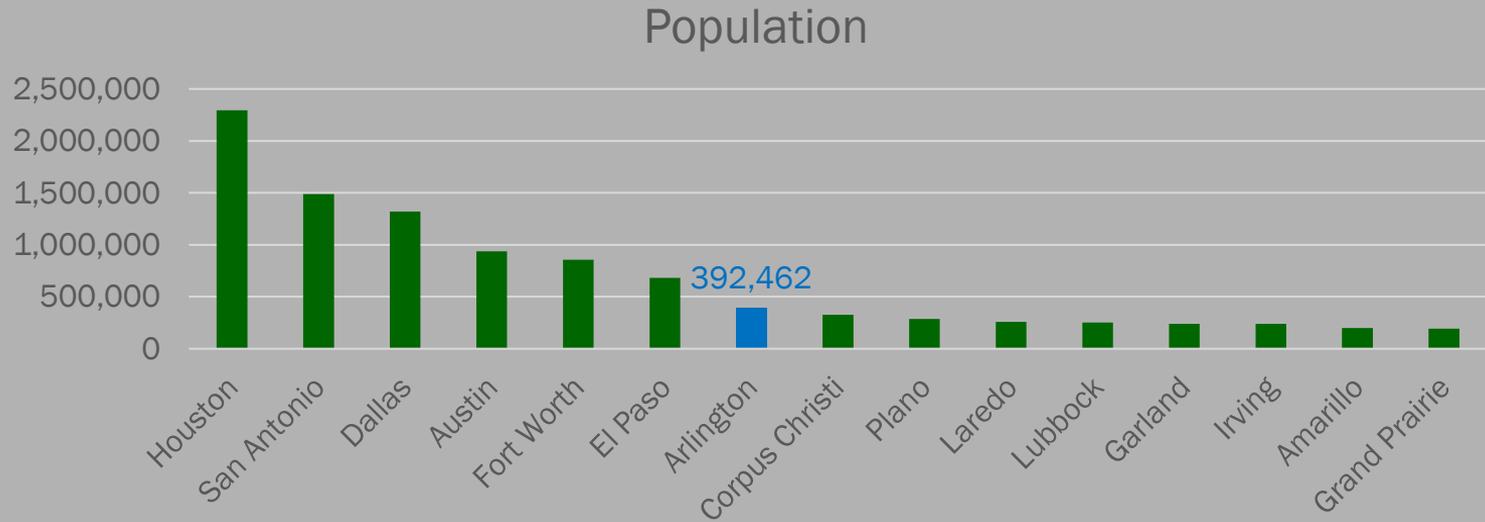




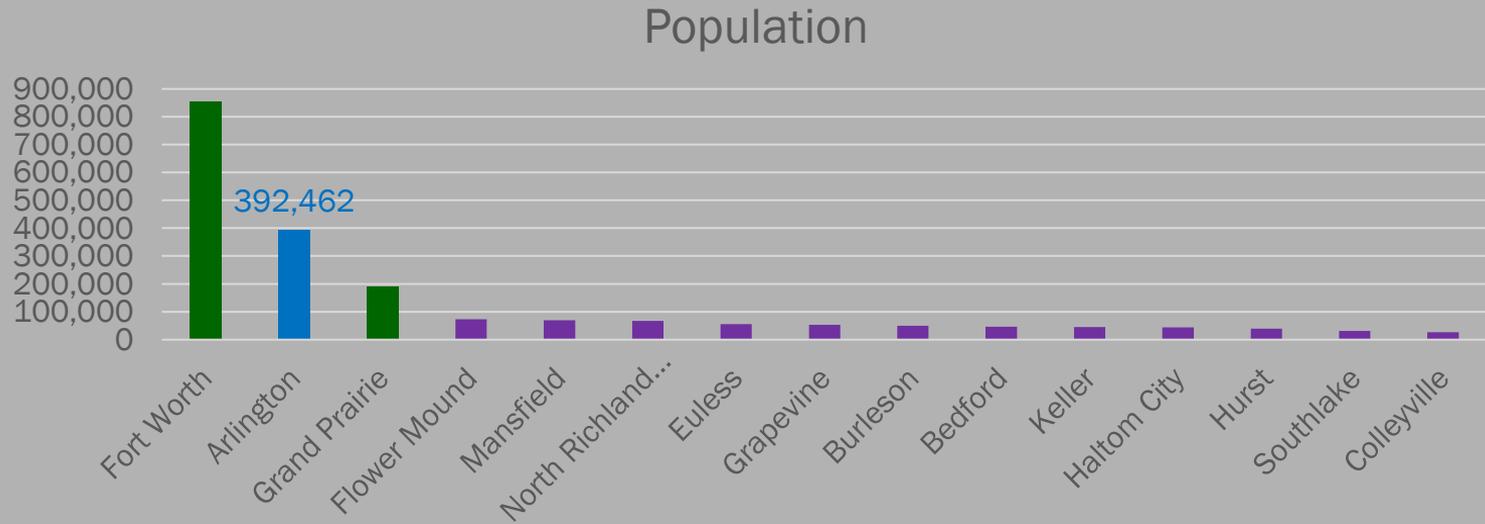
SURVEY OF CITY CHARTERS: TERM LIMITS AND TERM LENGTHS



Population Comparisons – Largest Texas Cities



Population Comparisons – Largest Tarrant County Cities



Term Lengths

4 Years	3 Years	2 Years
<p>Houston Dallas (Mayor only) Austin El Paso Plano Laredo Lubbock (Councilmember only)</p>	<p>Irving Grand Prairie Flower Mound Mansfield Euless Grapevine Bedford Keller Burleson Southlake Colleyville</p>	<p>San Antonio Dallas (Councilmember only) Fort Worth Arlington Corpus Christi Lubbock (Mayor only) Garland Amarillo North Richland Hills Halton City Hurst</p>



Term Limits

Yes (16)		No (11)	
Houston	Laredo	Fort Worth	Eules
San Antonio	Garland	Lubbock	Grapevine
Dallas	Irving	Amarillo	Keller
Austin	Flower Mound	Grand Prairie	Burleson
El Paso	Bedford	North Richland Hills	Hurst
Arlington	Haltom City	Mansfield	
Corpus Christi	Southlake		
Plano	Colleyville		



Limit on Total Terms v. Limit on Consecutive Terms

Total Terms (5)	Consecutive Terms (11)	
Houston San Antonio El Paso Arlington Laredo	Dallas Austin Corpus Christi Plano Garland Irving	Flower Mound Bedford Haltom City Southlake Colleyville

- Total Terms: A limit on the total number of terms (not necessarily consecutive) that a person can hold within their lifetime
- Consecutive Terms: A limit on total number of consecutive terms a person can hold in one office



Limit on Total Terms - Details

- 6 years as Councilmember and 6 years as Mayor
 - *Arlington* (3 total 2-year terms as Council member and 3 total 2-year terms as Mayor) – 12 years combined
- 8 years as Councilmember and 8 Years as Mayor
 - *Laredo* (2 total 4-year terms as Council member and 2 total 4-year terms as Mayor) – 16 years combined
- 8 years for each office/position on City Council
 - *Houston* (2 total 4-year terms for each office) – 17 total offices
 - *San Antonio* (4 total 2-year terms for each office) – 11 total offices
- 10 years for each office/position on City Council
 - *El Paso* (2.5 total 4-year terms of either office) – 9 total offices



Limit on Consecutive Terms – Details

- 10 years combined – 1 City

- *Haltom City*

- 3 consecutive 2-year terms as Councilmember (6); OR
 - 5 consecutive 2-year terms as Mayor (10); OR
 - 5 consecutive 2-year terms as Councilmember AND Mayor combined (10)

- 12 years combined – 6 Cities

- *Corpus Christi*

- 4 consecutive 2-year terms as Councilmember (8); OR
 - 4 consecutive 2-year terms as Mayor (8); OR
 - 6 consecutive 2-year terms as Councilmember AND Mayor combined (12)

- *Bedford*

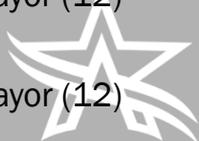
- 4 consecutive 3-year terms in any office (12)

- *Garland*

- 3 consecutive 2-year terms as Councilmember AND 3 consecutive 2-year terms as Mayor (12)

- *Flower Mound, Southlake and Colleyville*

- 2 consecutive 3-year terms as Councilmember AND 2 consecutive 3-year terms as Mayor (12)



Limit on Consecutive Terms – Detail

- 16 years combined – 3 Cities

- *Dallas*

- 4 consecutive 2-year terms as Councilmember AND
2 consecutive 4-year terms as Mayor (16)

- *Austin and Plano*

- 2 consecutive 4-year terms as Councilmember AND
2 consecutive 4-year terms as Mayor (16)

- 18 years combined – 1 City

- *Irving*

- 3 consecutive 3-year terms as Councilmember AND
3 consecutive 3-year terms as Mayor (18)



Cooling Off Period

Time a Term Limited Councilmember Must Wait to Run Again as a Councilmember	Time a Term Limited Mayor Must Wait to Run Again as a Mayor	Time a Term Limited Mayor Must Wait to Run Again as a to Councilmember
<p>Corpus Christi (6 years) Colleyville (3 years) Bedford (3 years) Dallas (2 years) Garland (2 years) Plano (1 year) Irving (1 year) Haltom City (next general election)</p>	<p>Corpus Christi (6 years) Dallas (4 years) Colleyville (3 years) Bedford (3 years) Garland (2 years) Irving (1 year) Haltom City (next general election)</p>	<p>Irving (1 year) Garland (1 year)</p>



Running Immediately for New Position

Term Limited Councilmember can Immediately Run for Mayor	Term Limited Mayor can Immediately Run for Councilmember
<p>Houston Dallas Austin Arlington Corpus Christi Plano Garland Irving Flower Mound Haltom City Southlake Colleyville</p>	<p>Houston Austin Arlington Corpus Christi Southlake Colleyville</p>





DISCUSSION

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