



BALLOT MEASURES

Philadelphia voters will weigh in on **four ballot questions** in the 2022 primary.

Question 1: Proposed Charter Change 1

Ballot Language: Shall the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to revise the composition of the Zoning Board of Adjustment by increasing the number of mayoral appointees from five to seven; by requiring Council confirmation of the mayor's appointments; and by specifying qualifications that appointees must possess, including a demonstrated sensitivity to community concerns regarding development and the protection of the character of Philadelphia's neighborhoods?

Plain Language, **as explained by the City Commissioners Office**: The City's Zoning Board of Adjustment hears cases about zoning permit decisions. These cases sometimes include case-by-case decisions whether to allow exceptions to zoning rules.

This ballot question wants to increase the number of board members by two and require that appointees are confirmed by City Council. It would also mandate that the board include an urban planner; an architect; a lawyer with zoning experience; a person with experience in the construction industry; and at least two recognized leaders from community organizations. Finally, all board members would also need to have shown "sensitivity to community concerns regarding development and protection of the character of Philadelphia's neighborhoods."

A "yes" vote means you approve of the adjustments to the board's composition mentioned in the ballot measure text.

A "no" vote means that you want the composition of the Zoning Board of Adjustment to remain as-is with five mayoral appointees without any specific qualifications.

Question 2: Proposed Charter Change 2

Ballot Language: Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to remove all gender-based references?

Plain Language, **as explained by the City Commissioners Office:** The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter is like the City's constitution; it sets up the rules for City government. The current City Charter generally refers to individuals as men. For example, it uses the words "he" and "him" to identify the Mayor and other high-level City officials. It uses terms such as "firemen" and "policemen". The Charter also includes a few references to City officers and employees using "his or her".

A "yes" vote means that you want to change the City's Charter to use language that does not refer to specific genders. Instead, the Charter would identify individuals using titles and descriptions that could apply to anyone.

A "no" vote means that you want the language in the City's Charter to remain the same. The charter will continue to use the words "he" and "him" to identify the Mayor and other high-level City officials as well as terms such as "firemen" and "policemen".

Question 3: Proposed Charter Change 3

Ballot Language: Should the Educational Supplement to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to remove all gender-based references?

Plain Language, **as explained by the City Commissioners Office:** The Educational Supplement to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter sets certain rules for the School District of Philadelphia and its Board of Education. The current Educational Supplement refers to all individuals as men. For example, it uses the words "he" and "him" to identify the Mayor, Superintendent, President of the Board of Education, and the School Auditor.

A "yes" vote means you want to change the Educational Supplement to use language that does not refer to specific genders. Instead, the Educational Supplement would identify individuals using titles and descriptions that could apply to anyone.

A "no" vote means that you want the language in the Educational Supplement of the City's Charter to remain the same.

Question 4: Proposed Charter Change 4

Ballot Language: Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to establish the Fair Housing Commission as an independent commission to administer and enforce statutes and ordinances concerning unfair rental practices and certain other matters concerning the landlord and tenant relationship and to adjudicate disputes related to such matters?

Plain Language: The City's Fair Housing Commission administers and enforces laws related to unfair rental practices and other issues affecting landlords and tenants. Although it has operated lawfully for many years as part of the City's government, it has not been made a part of the formal City Charter framework.

A "yes" vote means that you want to make the Fair Housing Commission more permanent than it is now by including it in the City's Charter.

A "no" vote means that you do not want the Fair Housing Commission to be a permanent part of the City's Charter.