

REVISED (01/03/11) Timeline of Events for Creating Proposed Charter

Before Costa Mesa residents can vote on whether their municipality should become a charter city, state law requires a three-month public hearing process so the issue can be thoroughly vetted by the public.

Here is the relevant text from the state law:

Prior to approving the submission to the voters of a proposal to adopt a charter, the governing body shall hold at least two public hearings on the matter of the proposal of a charter and the content of the proposed charter. Notice of the public hearings shall be given by publication pursuant to Section 6066, in a newspaper designated by the governing body and circulated throughout the city, and by posting the notice in three public places within the jurisdiction at least 21 calendar days prior to the date of each public hearing. The second public hearing shall be held at least 30 days after the first public hearing. At least one of the public hearings shall be held outside of normal business hours to facilitate public participation. The governing body shall not conduct a vote on whether to approve the submission to the voters of the proposal to adopt a charter until 21 days after the second public hearing.
[Cal. Gov. Code 34458(b) (effective on January 1, 2012)]

Between December 6, 2011 and March 6, 2012, the City of Costa Mesa will hold a series of City Council meetings, study sessions, informational town hall meetings, and mandatory hearings (pursuant to state statute) to provide information and receive input on the proposed charter.

The City will also provide on its website and through other information outlets information about the potential charter and the process of getting it on the ballot for the June 5, 2012 election.

Below is the tentative schedule of meetings, study sessions, town hall meetings, and mandatory hearings.

Dec. 6, City Council meeting: Report on possible City charter, including introduction to what's a charter, pros and cons of becoming a charter city, and procedure for being a charter city (including proposed timeline); first draft of the charter will be presented and discussed; public comment will be taken.

Dec. 20, deadline for notice posted for the mandatory First Hearing of proposed charter on Jan. 10, 2012.

Jan. 4, Wednesday, Informational Town Hall meeting: 7 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center. City staff will provide information on charters, the charter process, the sample charter for Costa Mesa and how to participate in the process.

Jan. 10, Special City Council meeting (First Hearing): The City Council will look at potential provisions to include in a charter for Costa Mesa, take public comment and may vote on a first draft of a charter, which can be edited by the council throughout the process.

Jan. 23, deadline for notice posted for the mandatory Second Hearing of proposed charter on Feb. 14, 2012.

Jan. 24 and/or Jan. 31, Potential informational meetings on charter: If needed, the City of Costa Mesa will present information on the charter and charter process.

Feb. 14, Special City Council meeting (Second Hearing): City Council will receive public comment and may continue to hone the draft charter toward completion.

March 6, COUNCIL MEETING to vote upon resolution directing that the Charter be submitted to the Voters: This is the earliest date in which Council may adopt a resolution directing the charter to be submitted to the voters.