

BOULDER CITY BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1

A Question Proposing to Amend the Boulder City Charter

Shall the Boulder City Charter be amended to add the following language set forth in ***bold italic***:

Throughout this document all references to the masculine also include the feminine, where the context so requires, and references to the singular also include the plural and vice versa, where the context so requires.

Yes

No

EXPLANATION

This proposed Charter amendment will be added to the Charter immediately prior to Section 4. It is intended to make the Charter “gender neutral.” This is the most simple manner in which to achieve the goal of gender neutrality recommended by the Charter Commission without the labor intensive, cumbersome process of locating each individual word which someone might find offensive from the perspective of gender, and replacing it with other language which others might also find offensive.

All ballot questions seeking an amendment to the Boulder City Charter must receive an affirmative vote of the people in two consecutive elections. This question is being presented to the voters for the first time at the general election in November of 2008. If the question receives an affirmative vote of the people, it will be placed on the next regular municipal election ballot in June of 2009 for final approval.

A “YES” vote would cause the proposed Charter amendment to be placed on the June, 2009 General Municipal Election for final approval.

A “NO” vote would leave the Charter unchanged.

ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE

Vote “YES” to amend the Boulder City Charter by incorporating one paragraph to reference gender neutral changes throughout the entire City Charter.

The reference to the masculine in the Boulder City Charter does not change the context. Our Charter is a historic document and one paragraph versus several amendments is a more efficient way to update the Charter without changing its character.

By offering one paragraph versus several additions of he/she to the Charter, it avoids being stylistically awkward.

Submitted by the City Clerk as provided for in NRS 295.217.

ARGUMENT AGAINST PASSAGE

Vote “NO” to amend the Boulder City Charter by incorporating one paragraph to reference gender neutral changes throughout the entire City Charter.

In 2003, the voters approved a ballot question to amend the City Charter with regard to specific gender neutral language. “Councilman” was amended to read “Council member” in some sections of the City Charter; other sections were omitted.

The Charter Commission met in 2007 and reviewed the City Charter thoroughly to change references to the masculine gender that had been inadvertently missed in 2003 and to ensure all references to the masculine gender were addressed to provide consistency within the Charter. The Charter Commission recommended changing all remaining masculine references from “Councilman (Councilmen)” to “Council member(s) and he to he/she, his to his/her,” etc. throughout the City Charter.

The review of the City Charter has been completed with regard to gender neutrality and recommended amendments have been provided by the Charter Commission. The ballot question should reflect the recommendation of the Charter Commission and not provide a blanket paragraph in an unrelated section of the City Charter to address the issue of gender neutrality.

Vote “NO” on this ballot question and then request that the City Council present a ballot question to the voters to amend the City Charter properly by changing references to masculinity omitted in 2003.

Submitted by the City Clerk as provided for in NRS 295.217.

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL EFFECT

Any expense related to this question will not require the levy or imposition of a new tax or fee or the increase of an existing tax or fee.