



# Cooper City Ballot Questions and Answers

November 3, 2020 General Elections



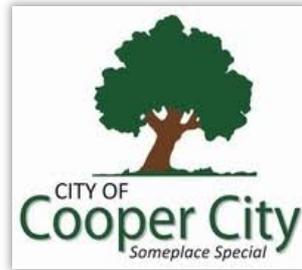
- ➔ **The City of Cooper City will have a number of referendum questions on the ballot.**
- ➔ **In order to help our residents understand the questions prior to voting, we've listed them here with an explanation of each.**

# 1. Establishment of City Advisory Boards & Limitations on the Simultaneous Service on Multiple Boards

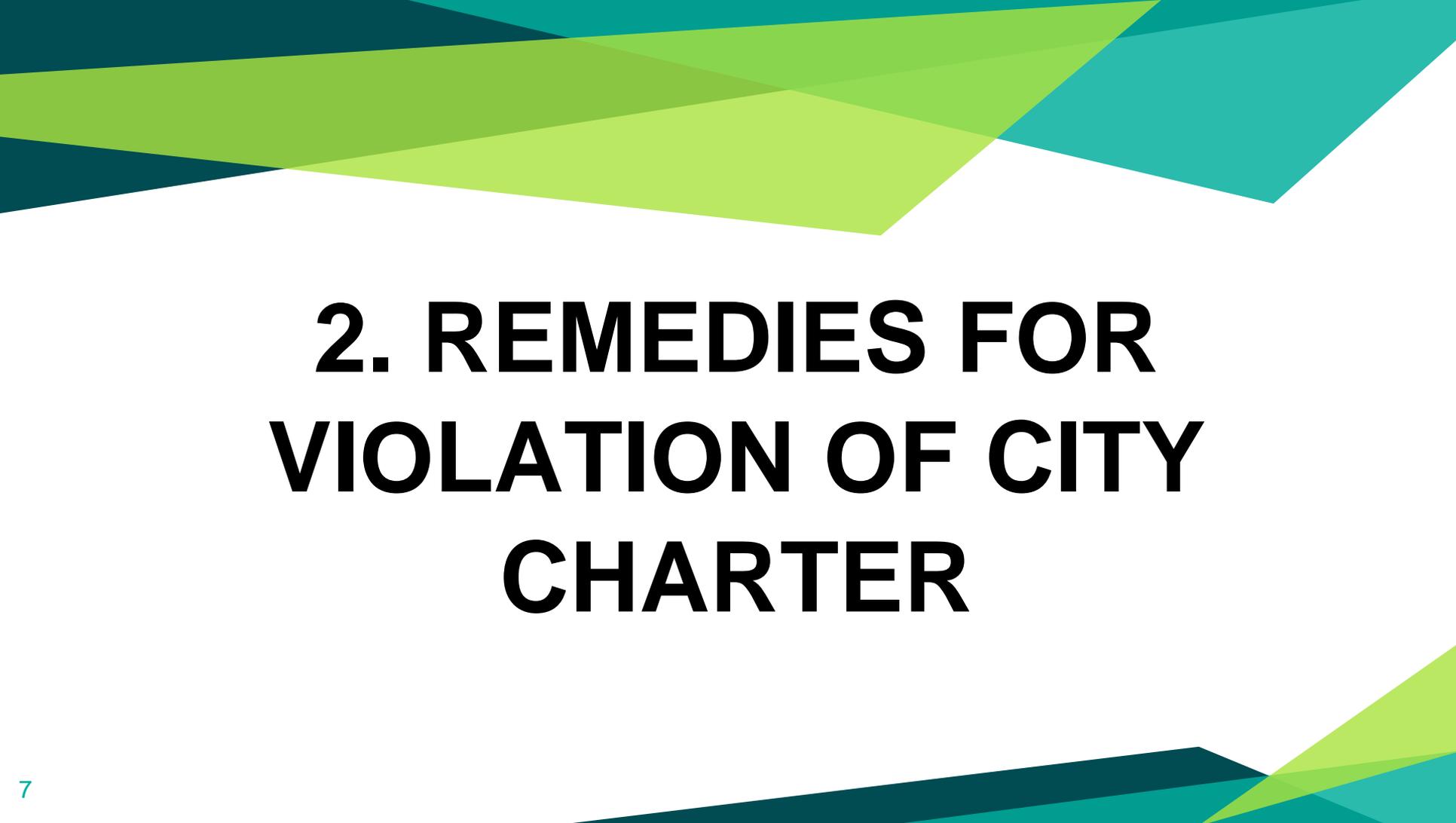


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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to eliminate the distinction between permanent boards and advisory boards and to authorize the city commission to establish advisory boards, as it deems necessary, to provide advice or recommendations to the city commission; provided, however, that no individual shall serve simultaneously on more than two (2) advisory boards.**

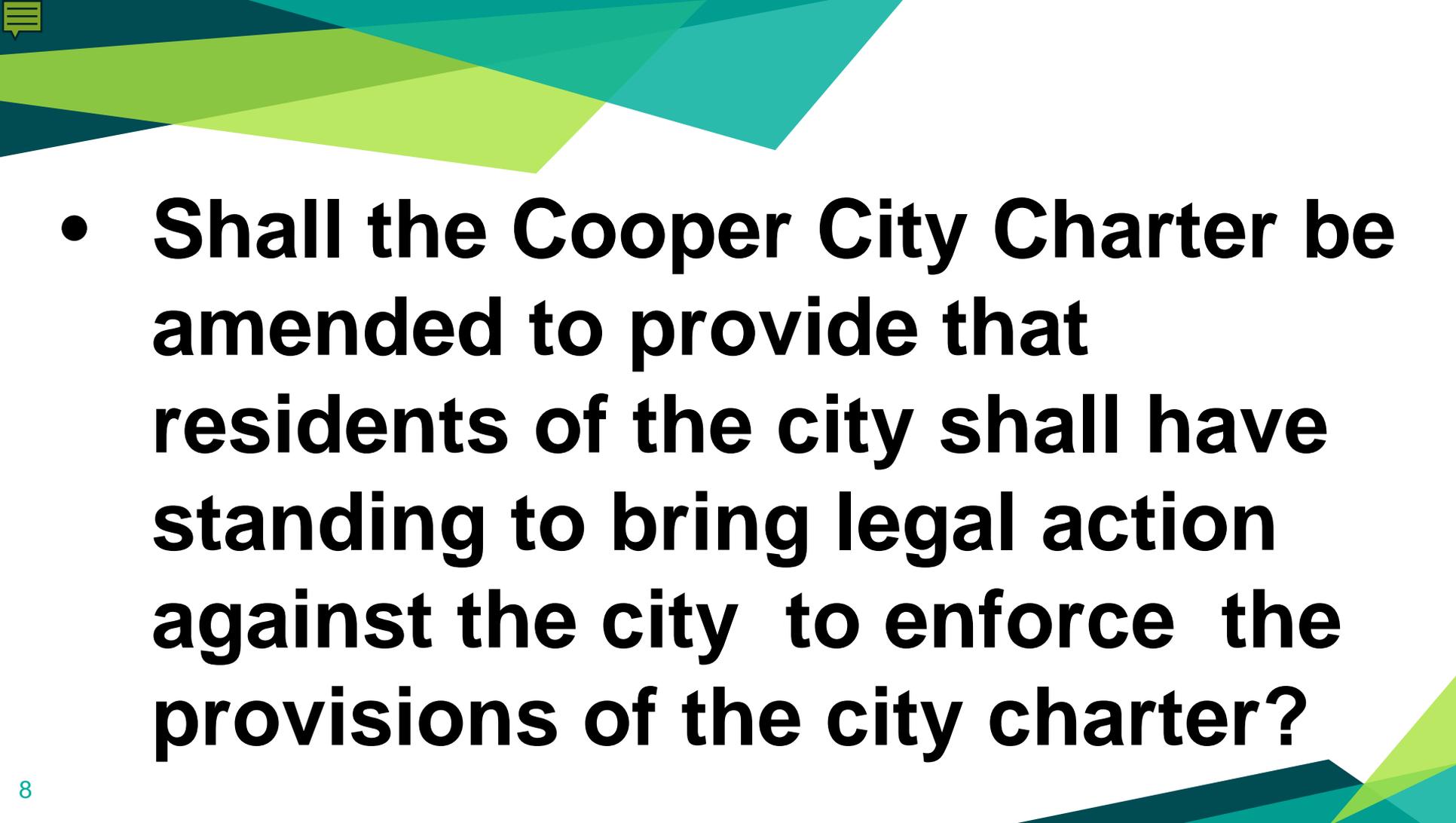
# What does this mean?



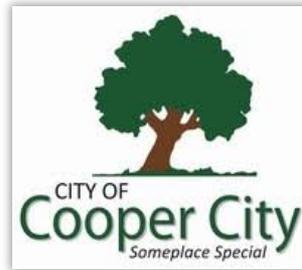
- **The City's Charter currently makes a distinction between a permanent board and an advisory board.**
- **This charter change would remove that distinction and allow the Commission to create advisory boards when they see fit. In addition, no person can serve on more than two advisory boards at one time.**



## **2. REMEDIES FOR VIOLATION OF CITY CHARTER**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to provide that residents of the city shall have standing to bring legal action against the city to enforce the provisions of the city charter?**

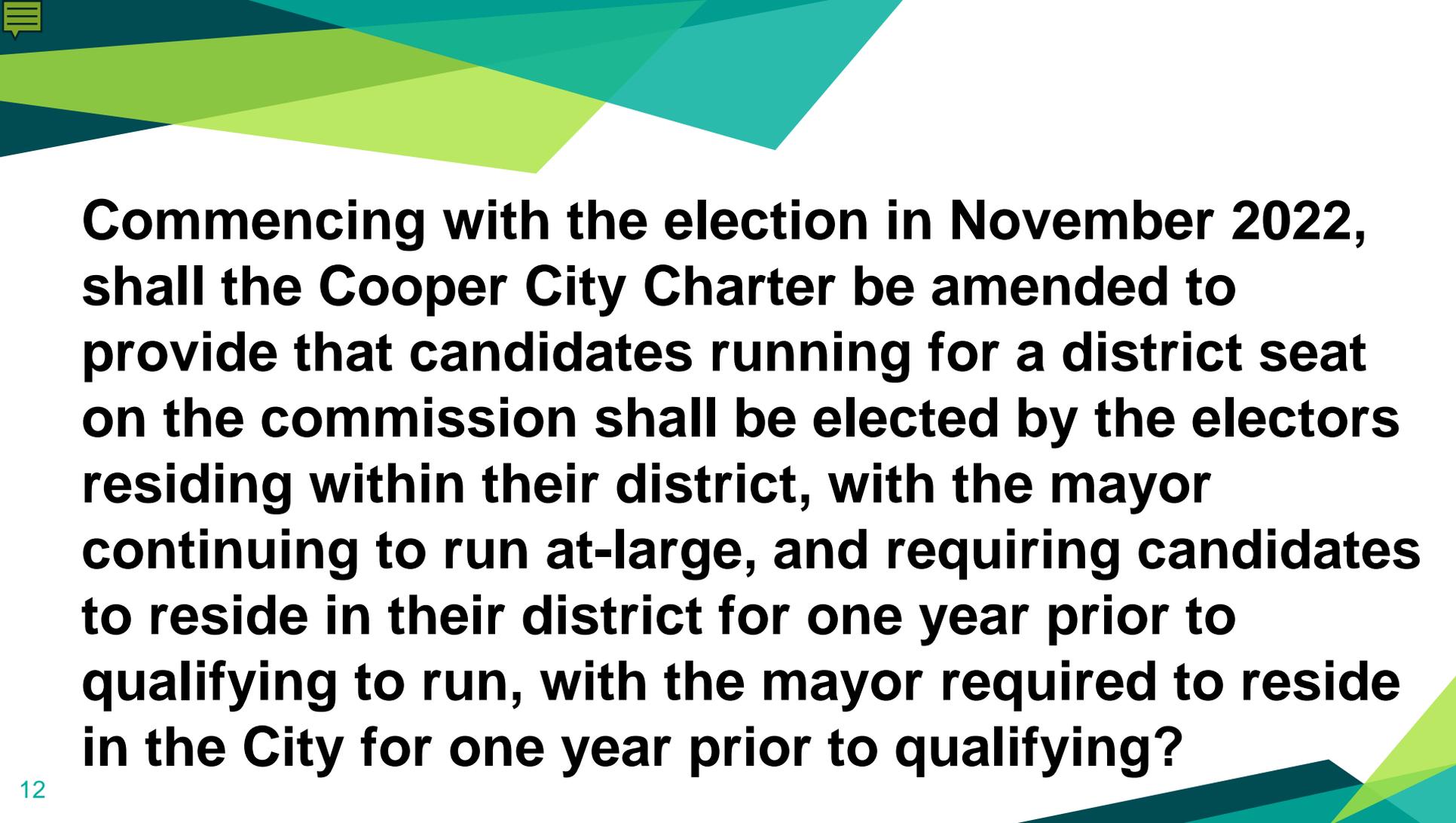
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- **Should this ballot referendum pass, residents of Cooper City will have standing to bring legal action against the city to enforce the provisions of the charter.**

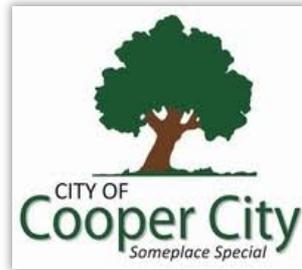
# **3. ELECTION OF CITY COMMISSIONERS AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**





**Commencing with the election in November 2022, shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to provide that candidates running for a district seat on the commission shall be elected by the electors residing within their district, with the mayor continuing to run at-large, and requiring candidates to reside in their district for one year prior to qualifying to run, with the mayor required to reside in the City for one year prior to qualifying?**

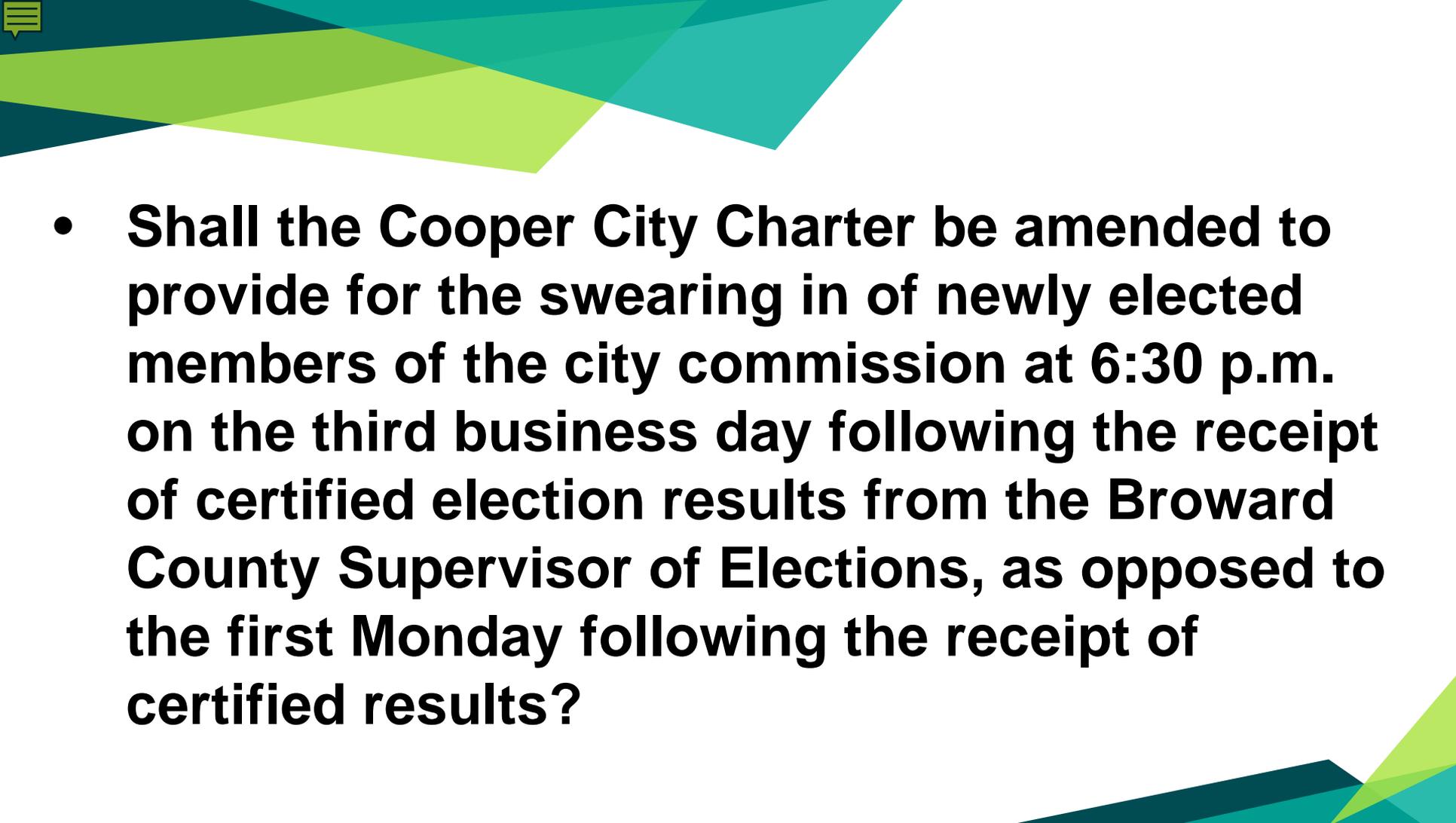
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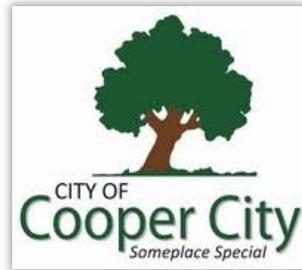
**Currently, a candidate for a commission seat must reside within the district for which they intend to run for six months. All electors of the City are able to vote for a district candidate, regardless of residency. This Charter amendment will require that candidates for a commission seat must reside within the district for which they intend to run for one year, and that only the residents that reside in that same district may vote for that district seat. The Mayoral seat will continue to be an at-large seat.**

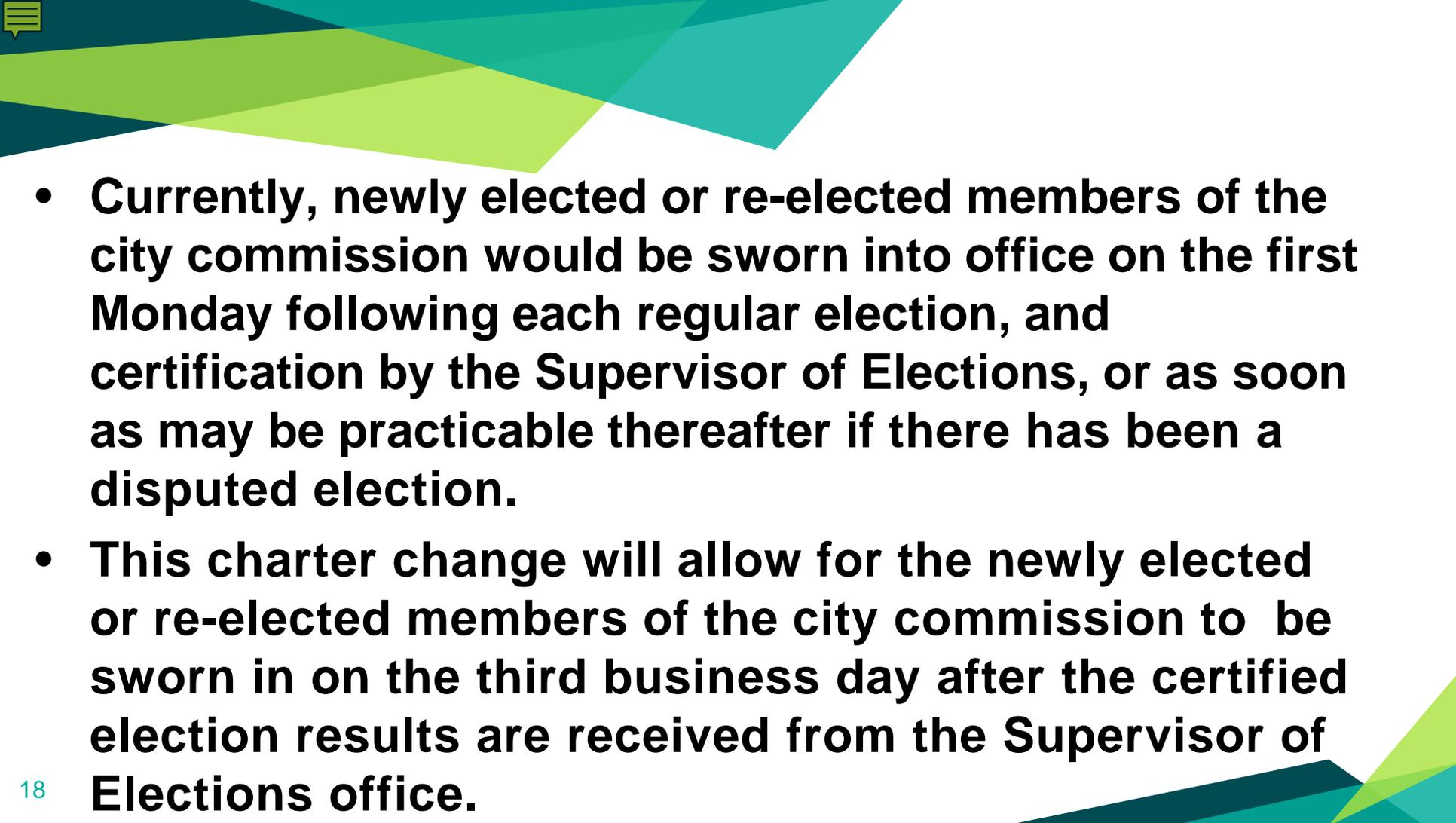


# **4. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TO SWEAR IN NEWLY ELECTED CITY COMMISSIONERS**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to provide for the swearing in of newly elected members of the city commission at 6:30 p.m. on the third business day following the receipt of certified election results from the Broward County Supervisor of Elections, as opposed to the first Monday following the receipt of certified results?**

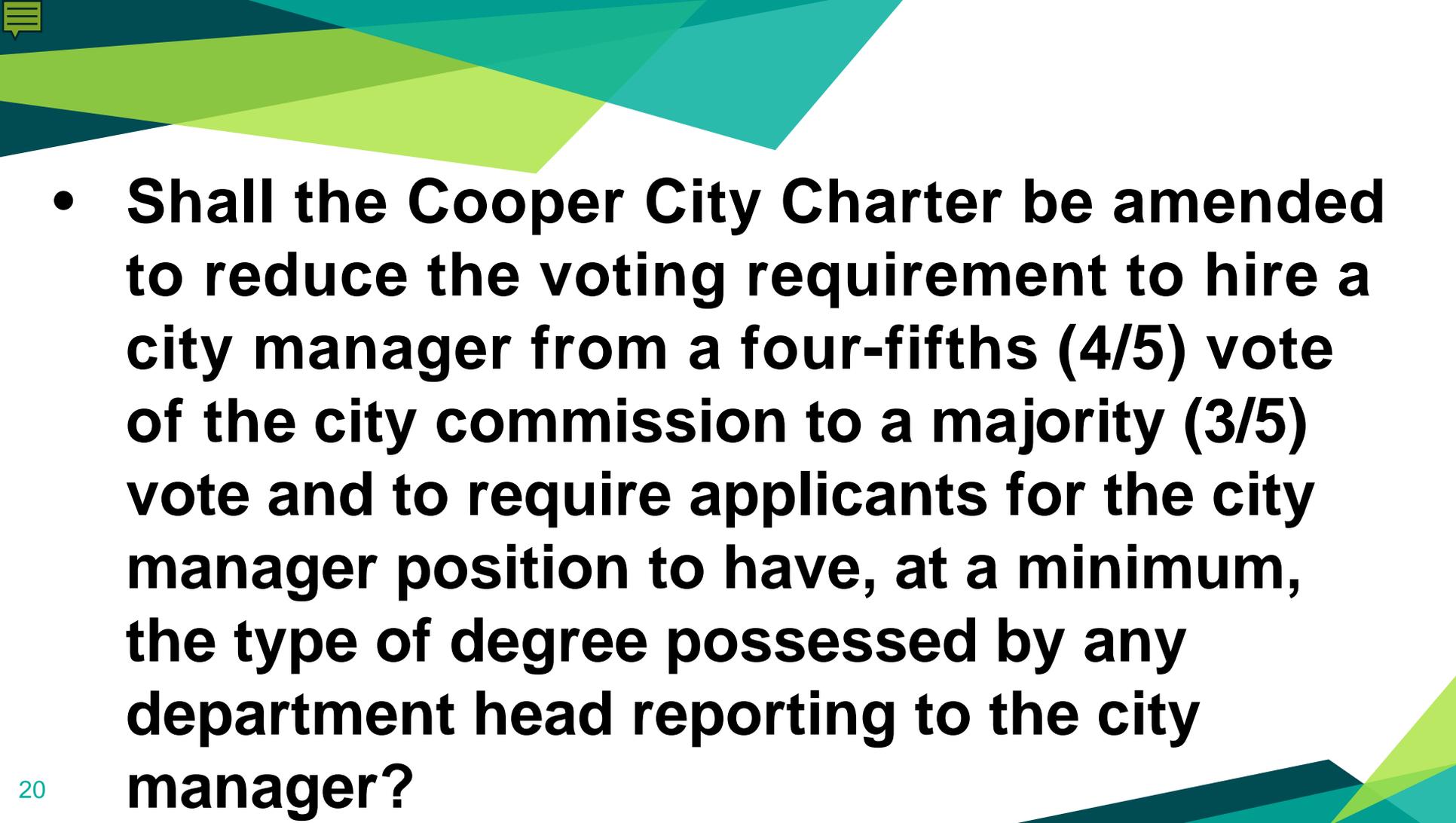
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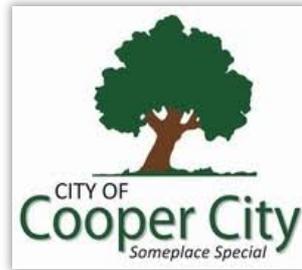
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- **Currently, newly elected or re-elected members of the city commission would be sworn into office on the first Monday following each regular election, and certification by the Supervisor of Elections, or as soon as may be practicable thereafter if there has been a disputed election.**
  - **This charter change will allow for the newly elected or re-elected members of the city commission to be sworn in on the third business day after the certified election results are received from the Supervisor of Elections office.**



# **5. REQUIREMENTS TO HIRE A CITY MANAGER AND CITY MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to reduce the voting requirement to hire a city manager from a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the city commission to a majority (3/5) vote and to require applicants for the city manager position to have, at a minimum, the type of degree possessed by any department head reporting to the city manager?**

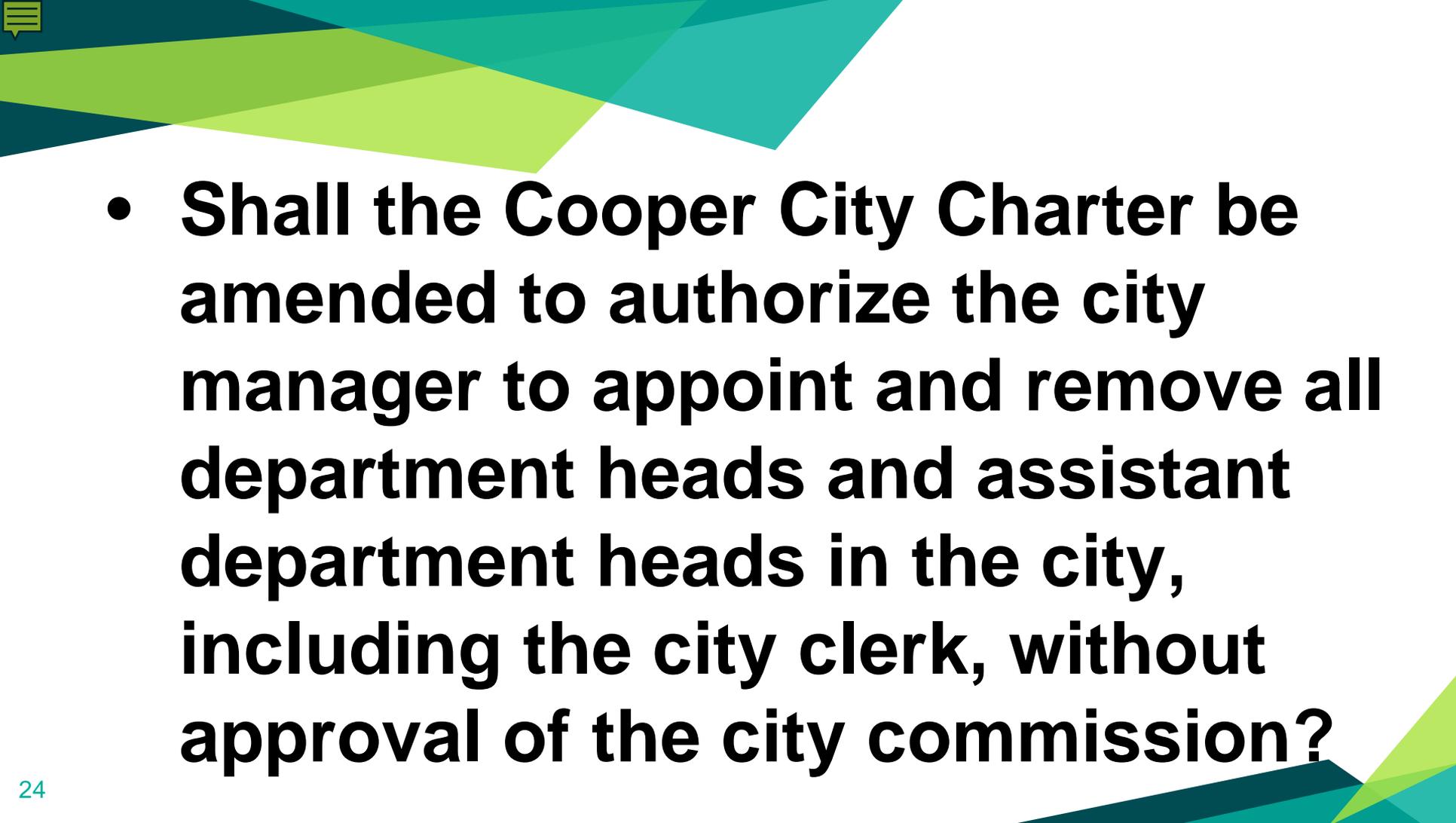
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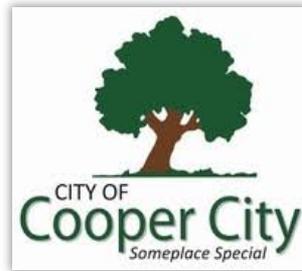
- **Currently, four of the five members of the Commission must agree on a candidate in order for the City to hire a City Manager.**
- **Should this ballot question be approved, an affirmative vote of at least three (3) members of the City Commission would be required to hire a City Manager. In addition, a City Manager now must possess at least the same type of degree possessed by any department head that would report to them.**



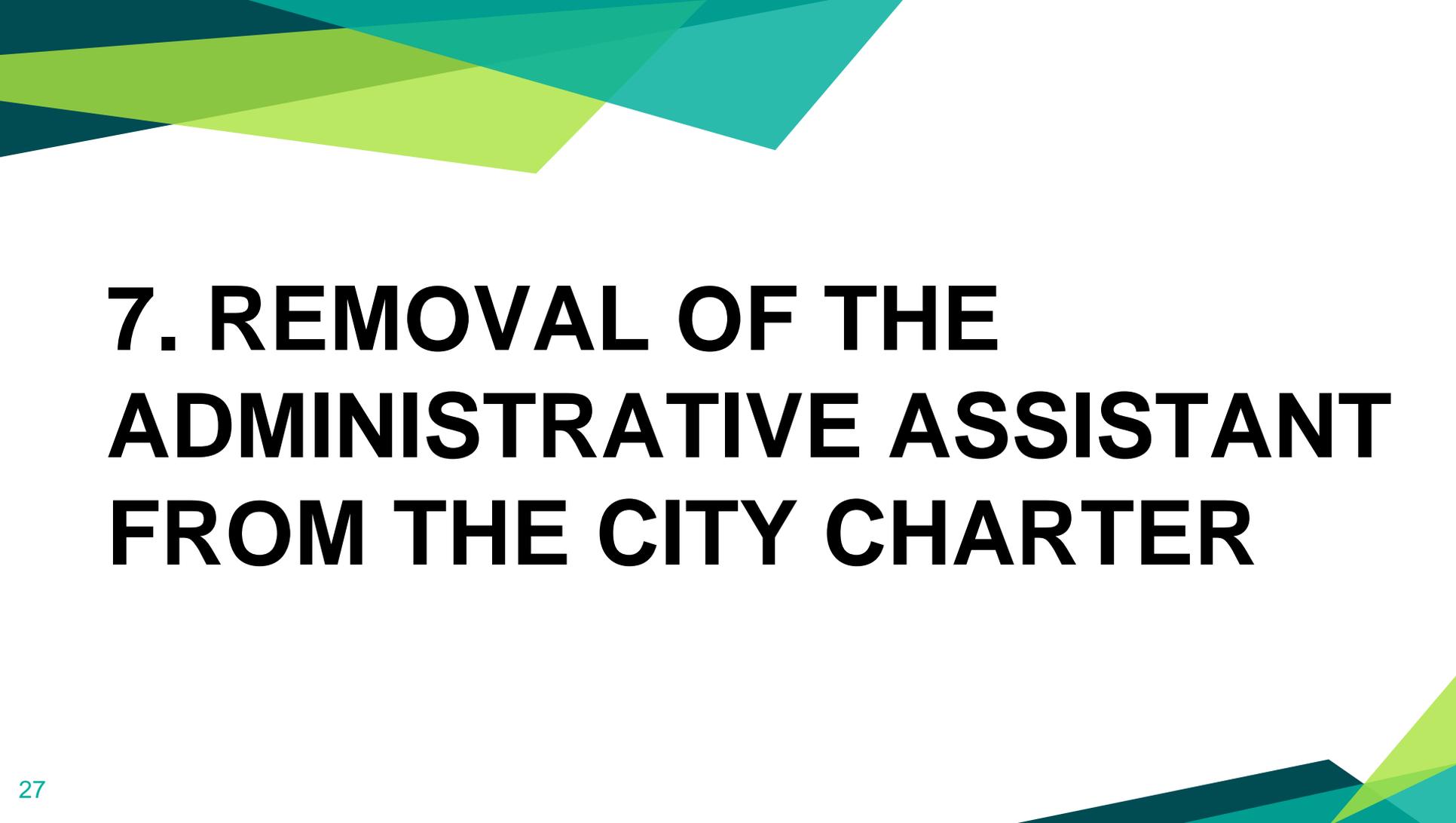
# **6. CITY MANAGER'S AUTHORITY TO APPOINT AND REMOVE DEPARTMENT HEADS AND ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT HEAD**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to authorize the city manager to appoint and remove all department heads and assistant department heads in the city, including the city clerk, without approval of the city commission?**

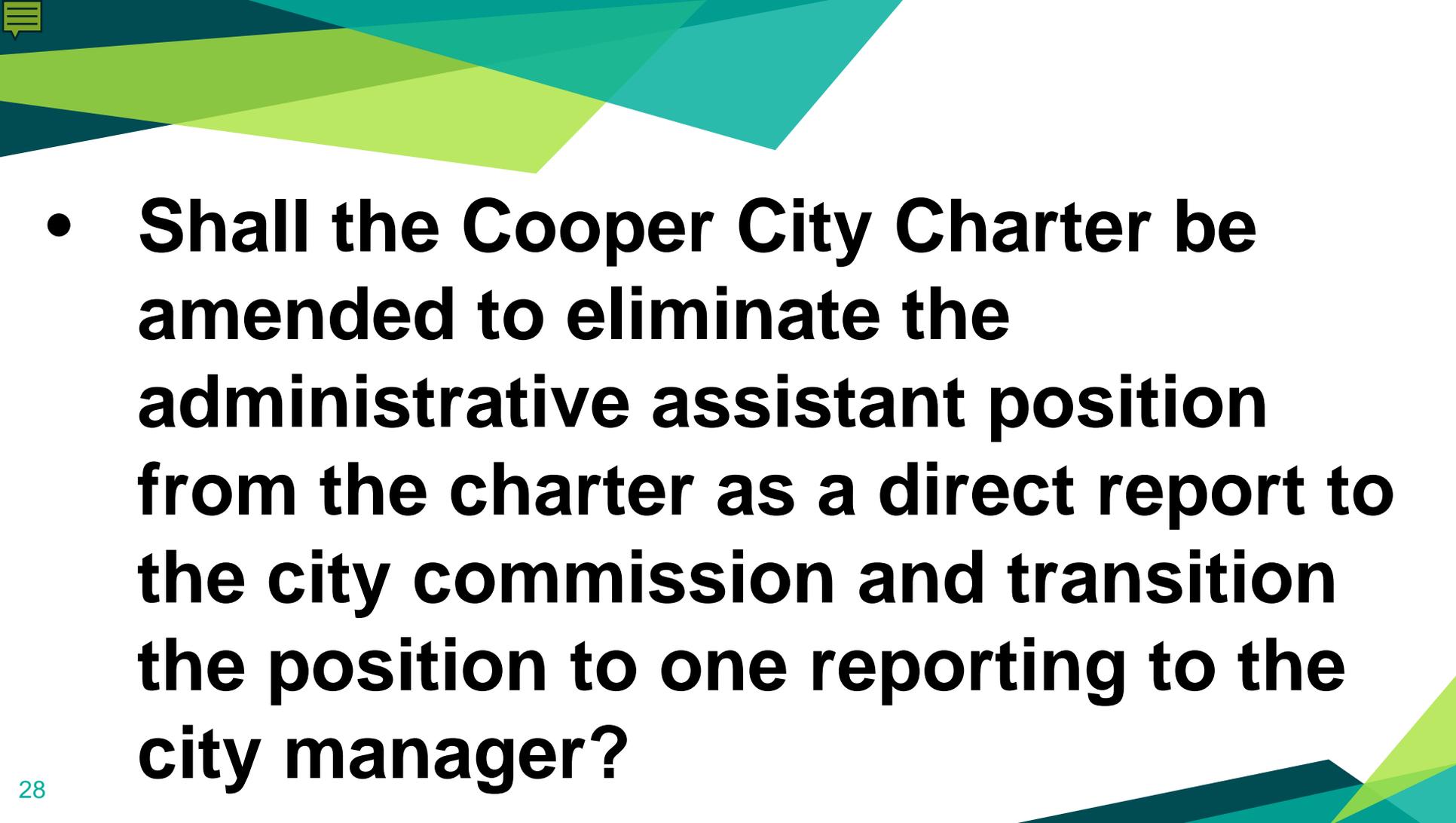
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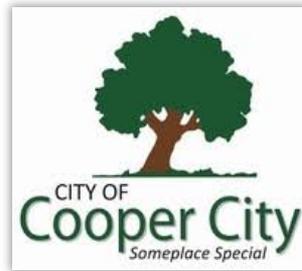
- **Currently the City Manager makes recommendations to the Commission to authorize the hiring and firing of department heads and certain assistant department heads. Should the ballot referendum be approved, the City Manager shall have the sole authority over the hiring and firing of these positions.**



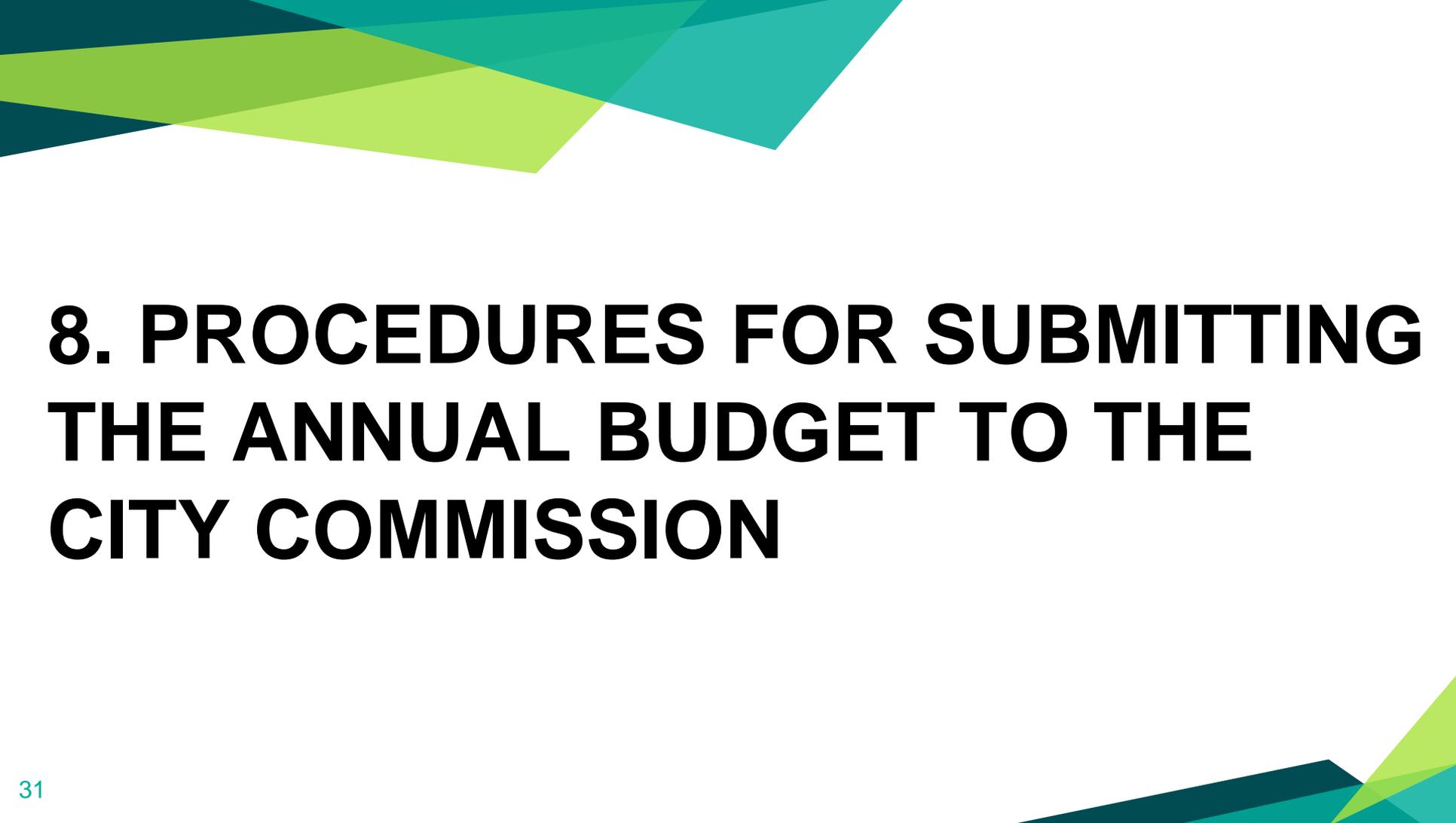
# **7. REMOVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FROM THE CITY CHARTER**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to eliminate the administrative assistant position from the charter as a direct report to the city commission and transition the position to one reporting to the city manager?**

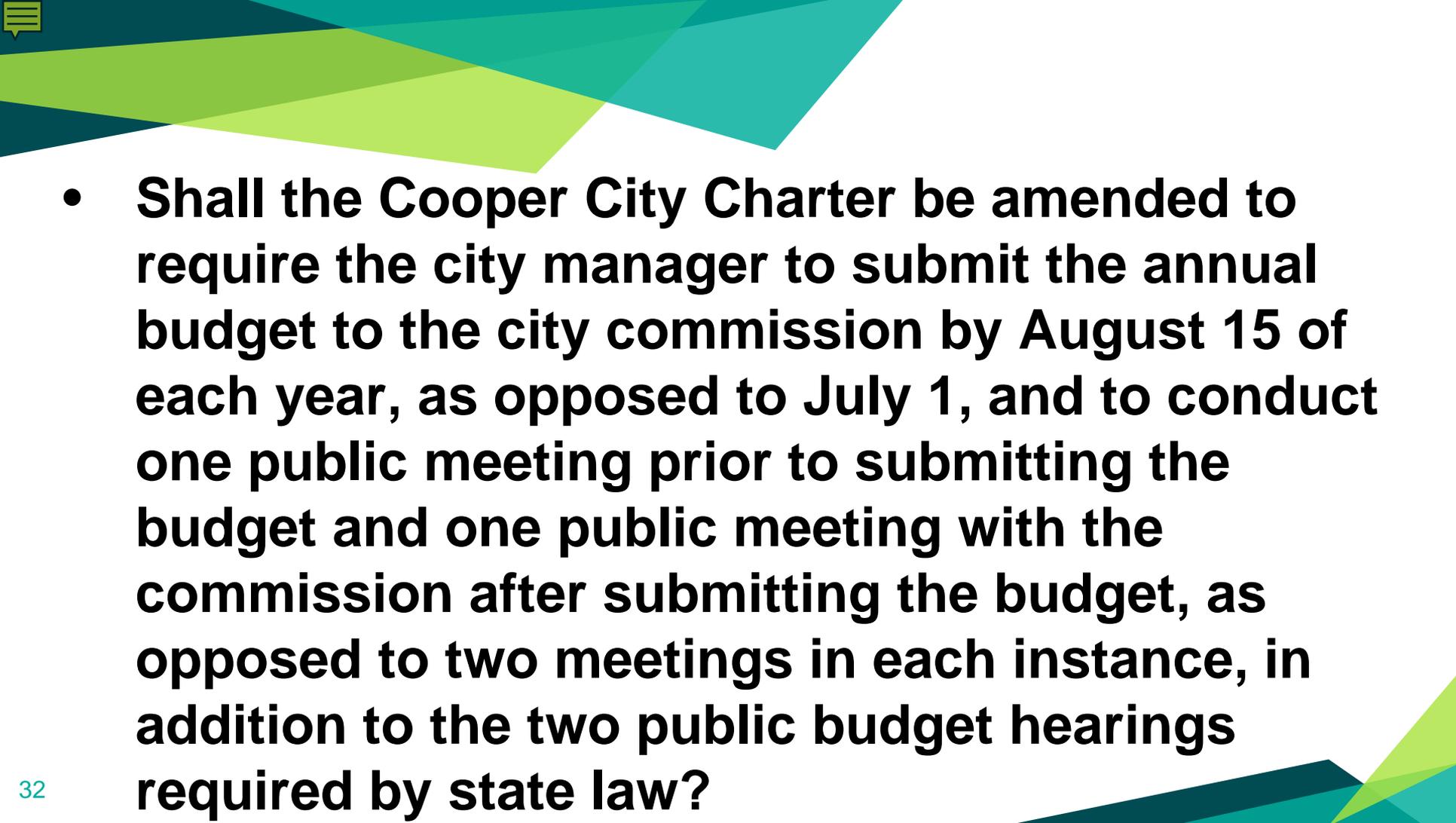
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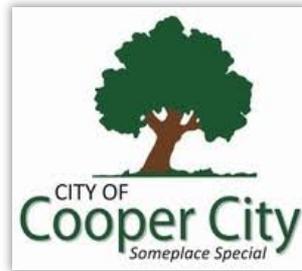
- **Currently, the Administrative Assistant to the Elected Officials position is a Charter position that reports directly to the City Commission.**
- **Should the ballot question be approved, the Administrative Assistant position would directly report to the City Manager.**



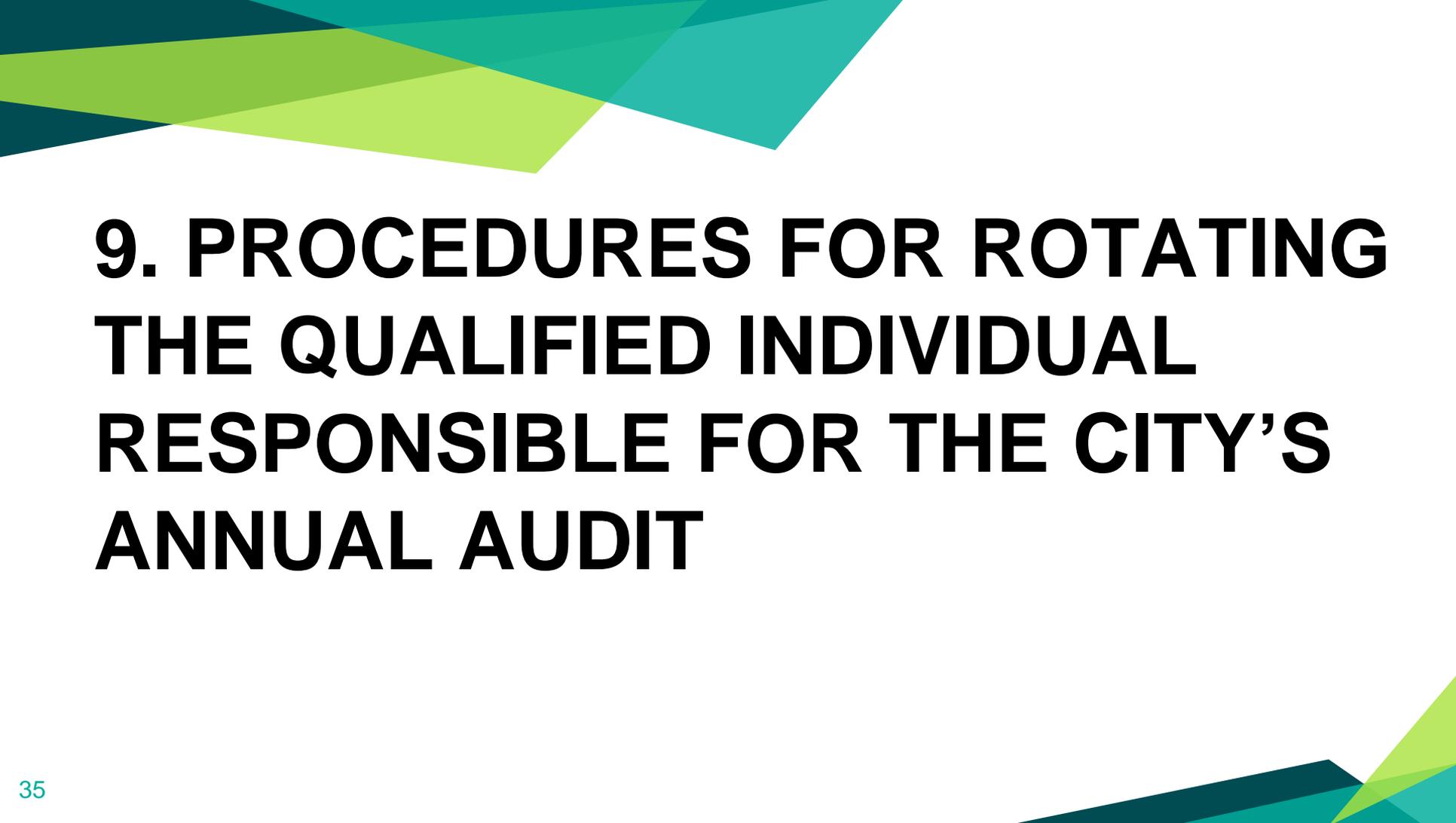
# **8. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET TO THE CITY COMMISSION**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to require the city manager to submit the annual budget to the city commission by August 15 of each year, as opposed to July 1, and to conduct one public meeting prior to submitting the budget and one public meeting with the commission after submitting the budget, as opposed to two meetings in each instance, in addition to the two public budget hearings required by state law?**

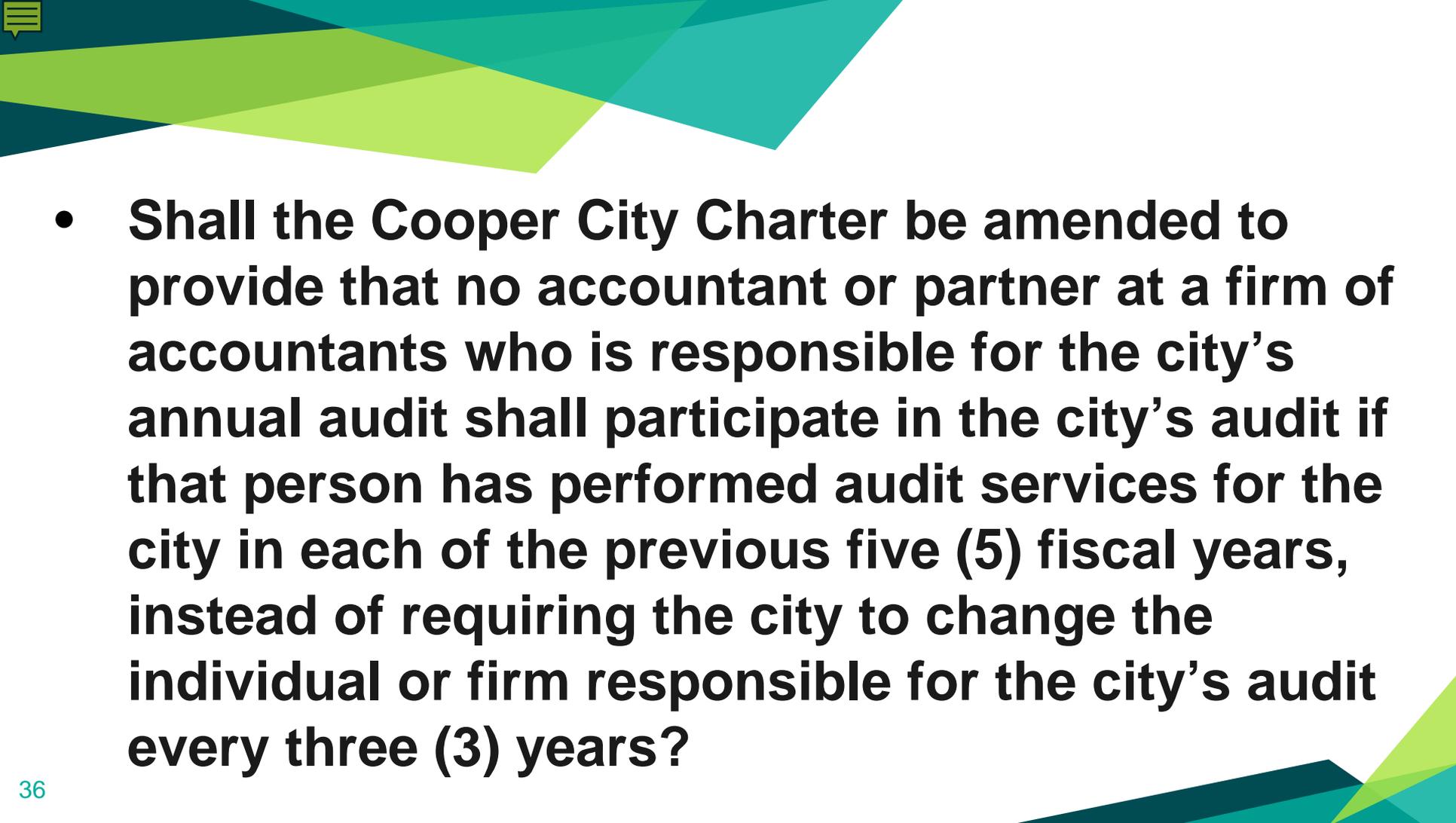
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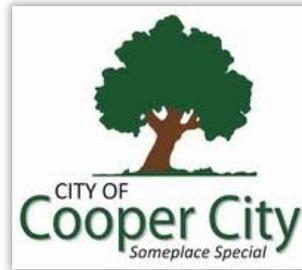
- **Currently the annual budget must be submitted to the City Commission on or before July 1 of each year, two public meetings must be held prior to the submission of the budget to the Commission, and two public meetings must be held after the submission of the budget to the Commission.**
- **Should this ballot question be approved, the budget will then have a submission deadline to the City Commission by August 15 and the number of public meetings will reduce to one public meeting each.**



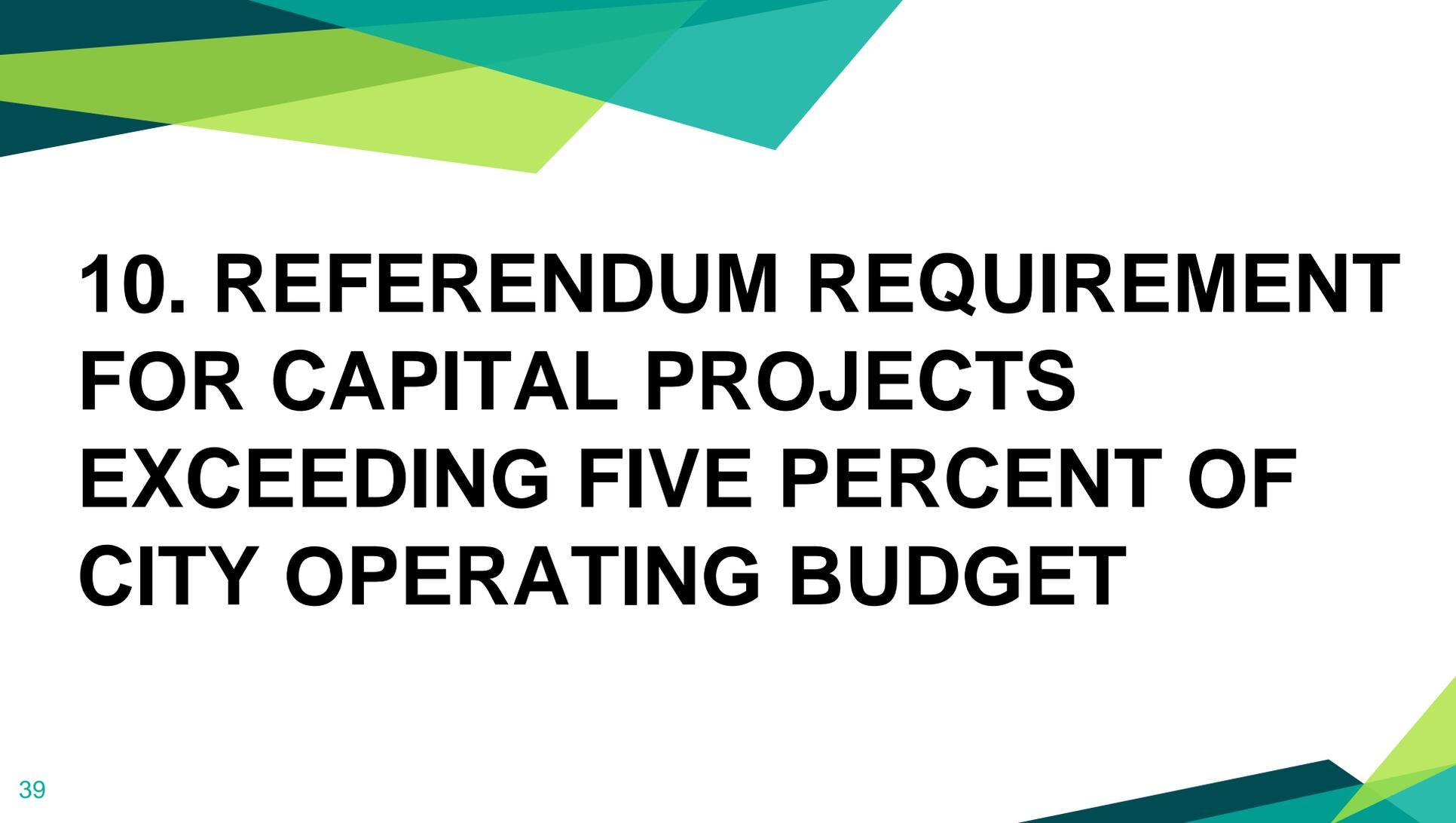
# **9. PROCEDURES FOR ROTATING THE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CITY'S ANNUAL AUDIT**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to provide that no accountant or partner at a firm of accountants who is responsible for the city's annual audit shall participate in the city's audit if that person has performed audit services for the city in each of the previous five (5) fiscal years, instead of requiring the city to change the individual or firm responsible for the city's audit every three (3) years?**

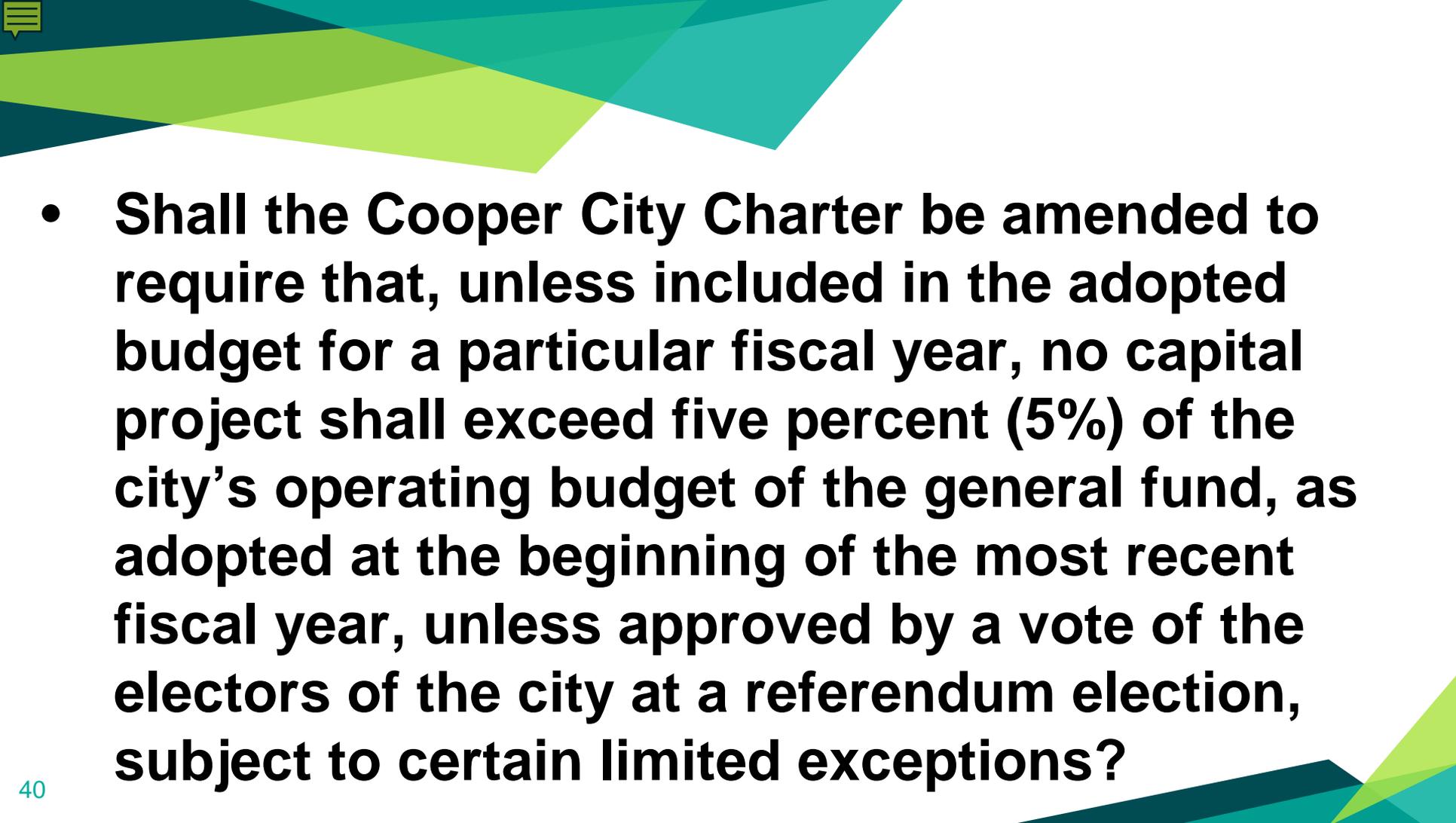
# What does this mean?



- **Currently, according to the City's Charter the city must change the auditor or auditing firm every three years. With the approval of the ballot question, the city would not be required to change the auditor or auditing firm every three years, but must change the accountant or partner at the firm that is engaged with the city for auditing services at least every five (5) years.**



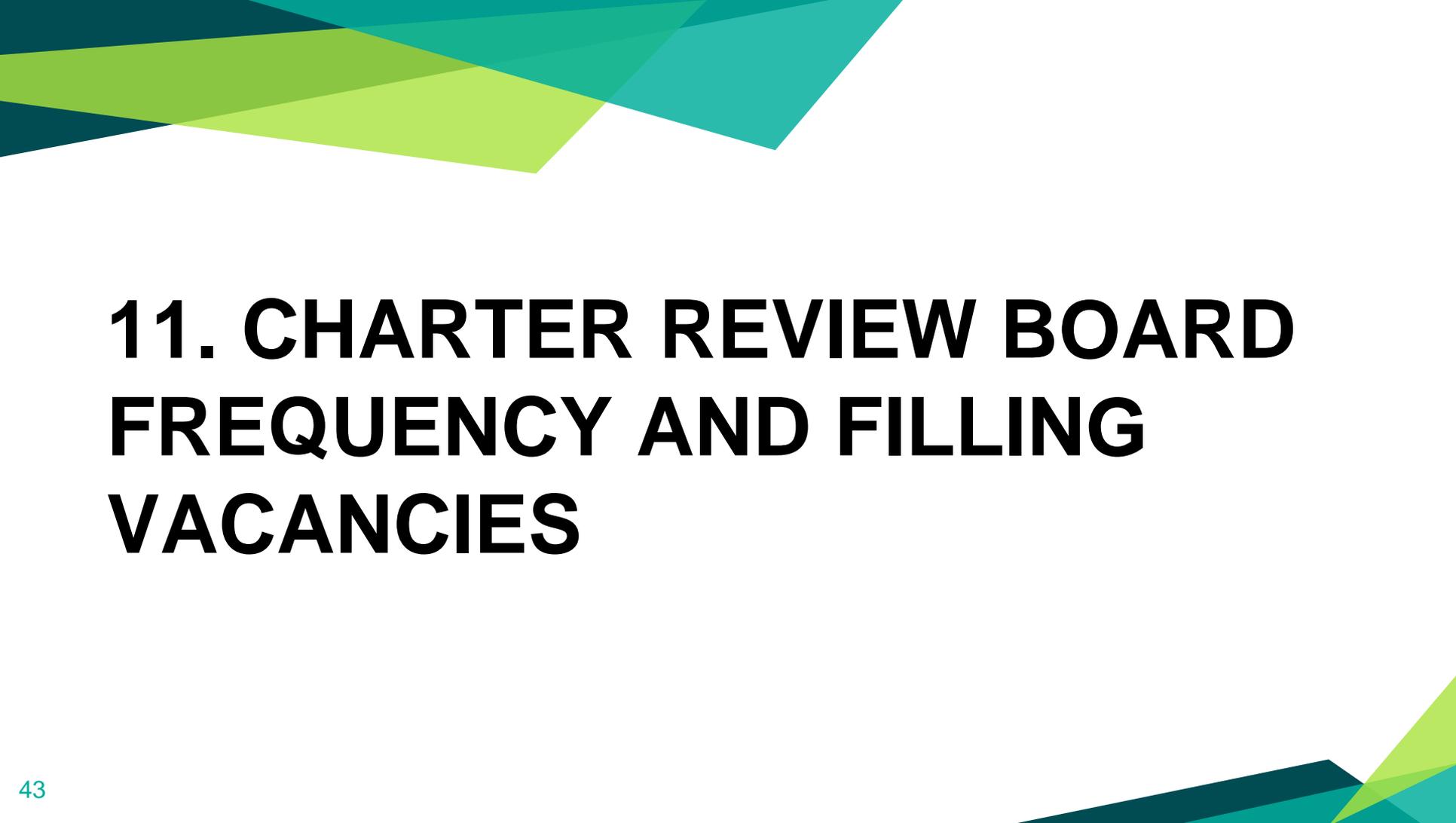
# **10. REFERENDUM REQUIREMENT FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS EXCEEDING FIVE PERCENT OF CITY OPERATING BUDGET**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to require that, unless included in the adopted budget for a particular fiscal year, no capital project shall exceed five percent (5%) of the city's operating budget of the general fund, as adopted at the beginning of the most recent fiscal year, unless approved by a vote of the electors of the city at a referendum election, subject to certain limited exceptions?**

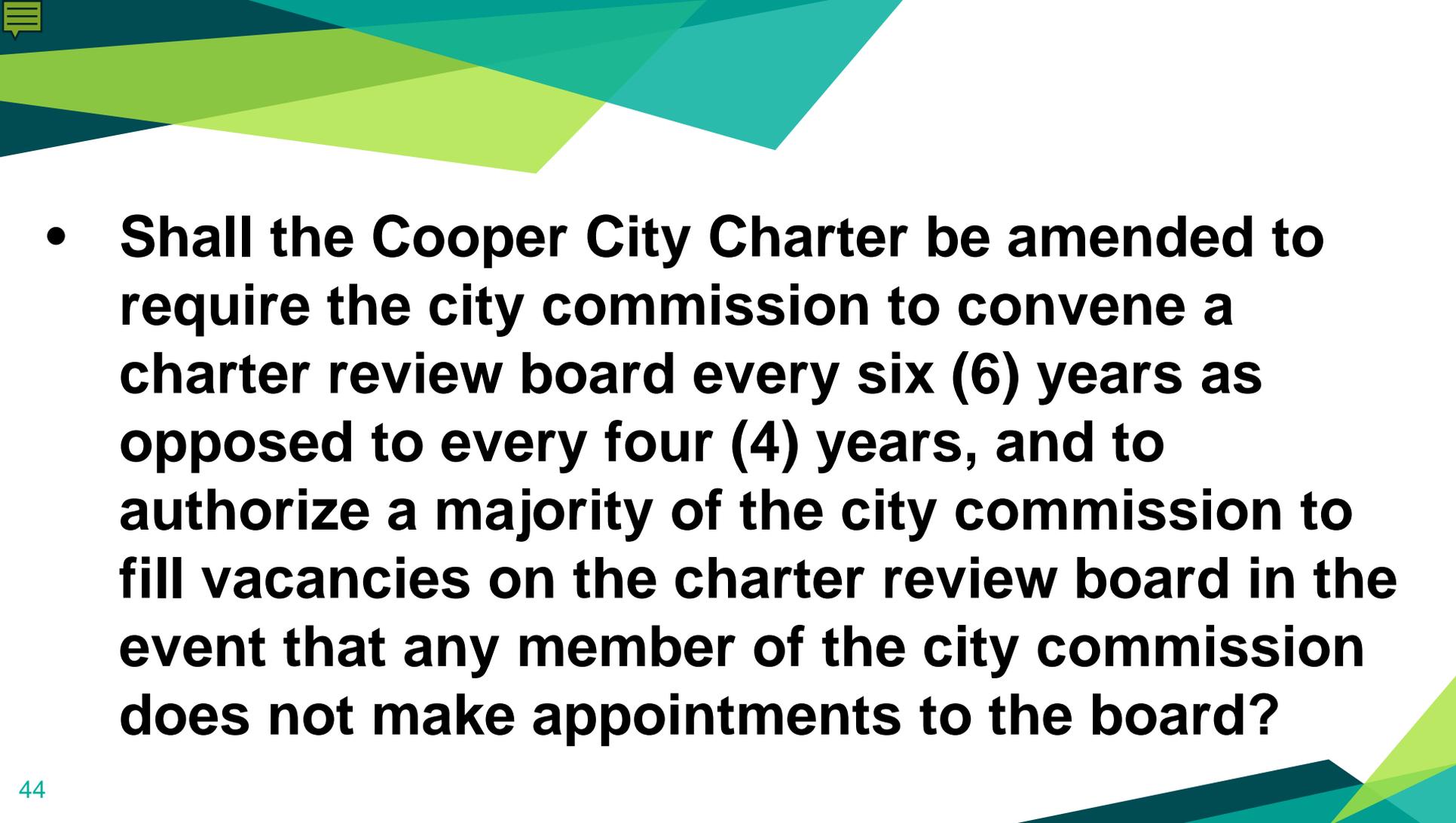
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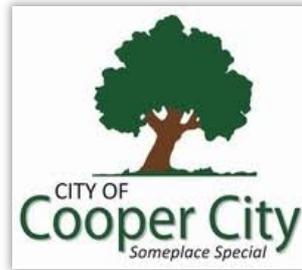
- **Should the ballot question be approved, all capital projects exceeding five percent (5%) of the city's operating budget of the general fund of the most recent fiscal year must be approved by the voters of the city at a referendum election, with some certain limited exceptions.**



# **11. CHARTER REVIEW BOARD FREQUENCY AND FILLING VACANCIES**

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- **Shall the Cooper City Charter be amended to require the city commission to convene a charter review board every six (6) years as opposed to every four (4) years, and to authorize a majority of the city commission to fill vacancies on the charter review board in the event that any member of the city commission does not make appointments to the board?**

# What does this mean?



- **Currently the Charter Review Board convenes every four years. This referendum, if approved, would require the City Commission to convene the Charter Review Board every six years. In addition, a majority of the City Commission can fill vacancies, should not all members of the commission appoint members to the Charter Review Board.**



# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION