

UNDERSTANDING ISSUES 8 & 9

Proposed changes to Columbus City Council elections and structure

GENERAL ELECTION • NOVEMBER 3, 2026

HOW COUNCIL WORKS TODAY

Columbus currently has nine Councilmembers representing nine residential districts. Candidates must live in the district they represent, but voters citywide currently elected all Councilmembers.

TODAY: 9 Districts | 9 Members



All Columbus voters vote in all nine Council races.

ISSUE



CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

*Proposed Charter Amendment No. 1
(Citizen Initiative)*

Issue 8 would keep Columbus City Council at nine members and nine districts, but change how district members are elected.



**9 DISTRICTS
9 MEMBERS**

Council remains at nine district members.



DISTRICT-ONLY VOTING

Only voters who live in each district would elect that district's Councilmember.



RECALL PROVISIONS

District voters would also determine recall elections for their district Councilmember.

ISSUE



CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE COMPLEMENT

*Proposed Charter Amendment No. 2
(Council Proposal)*

Issue 9 would also create nine district seats voted on just by the citizens of those districts, just like Issue 8. But it would also add four citywide at-large members, phased in over two election cycles.



**DISTRICTS +
AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

Includes nine district members and four at-large members elected citywide.

2027

9 district members
2 at-large members

11 TOTAL

2029

9 district members
4 at-large members

13 TOTAL



RECALL PROVISIONS

District voters would determine recall elections for their district councilmember. Citywide voters would determine recall elections for the citywide at-large members.



BOTH PROPOSALS

District Councilmembers would be elected only by voters who live in their district

TOPIC	ISSUE 8 City Council District Elections	ISSUE 9 City Council At-large Complement
Total number of Councilmembers	9	11 beginning in 2028 13 beginning in 2030
District seats	9	9
Who elects district members?	Voters within each district	Voters within each district
Citywide at-large seats	None	2 beginning in 2028 Another 2 beginning in 2030
Terms	Four years (No change)	Four years (No change)
Changes to Council district map	Next redraw in 2033	Next redraw in 2028

ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN ISSUE 9

In addition to adding at-large seats, Issue 9 includes other changes to the City Charter.



Reforms to Council district map

Initiates a map redraw in 2028 with greater population variance between districts allowed, in order to draw districts that protect representation and keep neighborhoods whole.



Nomination signatures

Reduces the number of required signatures to 150 registered voters for district candidates and 250 registered voters for at-large candidates, lowering barriers to running.

LEARN MORE

This handout provides an overview of Issues 8 and 9. Voters can review the certified ballot language and full text of both proposed amendments through the Franklin County Board of Elections.

ISSUE 8



ISSUE 9

