



**Casa Grande City Charter Review Committee
Meets: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - 3:30 PM
510 E Florence Blvd -
Casa Grande, Arizona**

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Minutes

C.1 Consider the Minutes of the Charter Review Committee Meeting of August 26, 2026.

D. Call to the Public

E. New Business

E.1 Staff report on August 31, 2026 meeting with Pinal County to discuss the May election.

E.2 Identify how amendments will be grouped into questions on the ballot.

E.3 Identify specific amendment language for each amendment.

F. Reports and Updates by Staff

G. Reports by Commission Members

H. Adjournment

Note: This meeting is open to the public. All interested people are welcome to attend. In order to allow participants to arrive, settle in, and prepare for the meeting without any last-minute delays, the doors to the meeting location will be open no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time. Supporting documents and staff reports, which were furnished to the City Charter Review Committee with this Agenda, are available for review in the City Clerk's Office or online at www.casagrandeaz.gov.

Disabled individuals with special accessibility needs may contact ADA Coordinator for the City of Casa Grande at 520-421-8600 or TDD 520-421-8623. If possible, such requests should be made 72 hours in advance.

Posted on September 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the below locations:

City Hall 510 E. Florence Blvd. Casa Grande, Arizona	Communications Center 520 N. Marshall Casa Grande, Arizona	City Website www.casagrandeaz.gov
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.C.S.' with a stylized flourish.

Adriana Carpio-Solis, CMC
City Clerk



MINUTES

Casa Grande City Charter Review Committee Meets: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 - 4:30 PM 510 E Florence Blvd - Casa Grande, Arizona

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 04:46 PM.

B. Roll Call

Present: Kevin White, Michele Emig, Ralph Varela, Randy Robbins, Richard Rosales
Absent: Melissa Yost, Mike Cruz

C. Minutes

C.1 Consider the Minutes of the Charter Review Committee Meeting of August 20, 2026.

Minutes approved.

D. Call to the Public

Held.

E. New Business

E.1 Determine and prioritize recommended Charter amendments.

The Committee reviewed the previously identified charter amendment priorities and discussed narrowing the list to a manageable set of recommendations for consideration by the City Council and, ultimately, the voters. The Committee agreed that the list should remain focused on higher-impact amendments rather than attempting to address every potential charter change at once.

Committee member Kevin White expresses concerns regarding the Mayor and City Judge terms. The Committee discussed the proposal to increase the Mayor's term from two years to four years. Members noted that the City Judge's term is currently coterminous with the Mayor's term, creating a related consideration if the Mayor's term is changed.

The Committee also discussed the process for appointing the City Judge and whether changes to the appointment process should be considered separately from the proposed term change. Members expressed concern that requiring an application

process when the Council may ultimately reappoint the existing judge could create unnecessary work for applicants and the City.

The Committee discussed whether the Mayor's term and City Judge provisions should be presented as separate ballot questions or addressed together. Members generally supported the proposed changes but wanted the final ballot structure to be simple and understandable to voters.

The Committee discussed the proposal to remove the fixed \$50,000 threshold associated with ordinance approval and instead allow the applicable threshold to be established through City Code or Council action. Members discussed the benefits of allowing the threshold to be adjusted over time without requiring a charter amendment each time the dollar amount becomes outdated. The Committee also discussed whether a specific dollar amount should remain in the Charter. Members noted that changing the Charter provision would not eliminate Council oversight because applicable procurement thresholds and requirements would continue to provide a public approval process. The Committee requested additional information regarding how other cities address similar thresholds before making a final recommendation.

The Committee discussed the importance of educating voters about the proposed charter amendments. Members noted that voters may be more likely to support changes when the purpose and practical effect of each amendment are clearly explained. The Committee discussed using comparisons with other Arizona cities as part of the public education effort, particularly where Casa Grande's existing Charter provisions differ significantly from those of other municipalities. Members also discussed the possibility of grouping straightforward housekeeping amendments together to simplify the ballot and make the proposed changes easier for voters to understand.

The Committee discussed changing the title "Mayor Pro Tem" to "Vice Mayor." Members noted that other Arizona cities use the term "Vice Mayor" and that the change would primarily be a terminology update. The Committee considered this a noncontroversial housekeeping amendment and discussed grouping it with other straightforward terminology changes.

The Committee discussed whether the City Manager should have authority to appoint the City Clerk and Finance Director without requiring Council ratification. Members noted that the City Manager currently conducts the selection process but that Council approval is still required. The Committee discussed whether Council approval is necessary for positions that report to and are managed by the City Manager. The Committee expressed support for considering a change that would allow the City Manager to make these appointments without Council ratification. Members also discussed whether this item should be elevated in priority because the current Charter language may not reflect the City's current practice.

The Committee discussed proposed changes related to the City's General Plan and the existing Charter language concerning site plan review exemptions for single-family detached dwellings. The Committee considered removing the exemption language from

the Charter so that the applicable requirements could be addressed through the City's normal planning and development regulations.

The Committee discussed the Charter provisions requiring ordinances and other actions to be published in the newspaper. Members discussed the potential cost savings associated with reducing the amount of material required to be published while continuing to provide appropriate public notice. One possible approach discussed was reducing the amount of an ordinance required to be published rather than eliminating newspaper publication entirely. The Committee generally agreed that this issue was less urgent than several of the higher-priority amendments and could be addressed in a future charter review if necessary.

The Committee discussed the existing Charter references to the City Treasurer and the current use of the Finance Director position. Members noted that many other cities have similar positions identified differently in their charters and that the proposed change would largely update the terminology to reflect the City's current organizational structure.

The Committee briefly discussed the Charter provision concerning the frequency of City Council meetings. Members noted that the Council has not always met during July and has historically addressed meeting cancellations or scheduling through other means. The Committee discussed whether the Charter should provide greater flexibility by allowing meetings to occur as prescribed by Council rules or as needed rather than establishing overly rigid requirements.

The Committee reviewed provisions concerning the City Manager's employment term and contract. Members discussed the existing 24-month employment provision and whether the Charter language provides sufficient flexibility for the City to negotiate employment terms. The Committee noted that some provisions currently contained in the Charter may be more appropriately addressed through the City Manager's employment contract.

Members discussed the issue of independent voters potentially not receiving a ballot containing municipal races or questions when an election is conducted in conjunction with a partisan primary. Members expressed concern that eligible voters could effectively be prevented from participating in municipal elections if they do not receive the appropriate ballot. The Committee discussed whether the issue could be addressed through the City Charter or whether it is primarily controlled by state law and election procedures. Members generally understood that the issue may extend beyond the City's authority. The Committee agreed that additional information should be obtained from the County and appropriate state officials regarding how ballots are determined and whether anything can be done locally to ensure eligible voters receive the appropriate ballot.

The Committee identified a preliminary short list of items to carry forward. The items discussed included:

- Extending the Mayor's term from two years to four years.
- Reviewing the City Judge appointment process and related term provisions.
- Revising the City Manager employment/term language.
- Modifying audit language to clarify the frequency requirement.
- Revising the ordinance approval threshold so it can be established or adjusted through City Code or Council action.
- Reviewing the City Judge selection process.
- Removing or revising the single-family detached dwelling exemption from site plan review.
- Authorizing the City Manager to appoint the City Clerk and Finance Director without Council ratification.
- Updating the title "Mayor Pro Tem" to "Vice Mayor."
- Updating references to the City Treasurer/Finance Director.
- Making other noncontroversial terminology and housekeeping changes where appropriate.

The Committee directed staff to continue developing the short list and prepare recommendations for how the amendments could be grouped for presentation to voters. Staff will also research how other Arizona cities address the ordinance approval threshold and related Charter provisions. Staff will contact the County to obtain clarification regarding the ballot issue affecting independent voters and determine whether any local or state-level action may be available. The Committee discussed using the next meeting to review the proposed grouping strategy and subsequently develop specific ballot language.

F. Reports and Updates by Staff

No reports or updates.

G. Reports by Commission Members

No reports or updates.

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 05:33 PM.

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Posted on 08/25/2026 by 10 AM at the below locations:

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Adriana Carpio-Solis, CMC
City Clerk