



# Voter Information GUIDE

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

## MAY 9, 2015 ELECTIONS

On May 9, 2015, San Antonio voters will have the opportunity to choose the Mayor and City Council that represent them, and to vote in two special elections on key issues, such as:

- AQUIFER PROTECTION
- LINEAR PARKS DEVELOPMENT
- STREETCAR AND LIGHT RAIL SYSTEMS
- CITY COUNCIL PAY
- CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL ELECTIONS

## The Special Sales and Use Tax Election includes two propositions that would continue the 1/8th cent sales tax that was approved by voters in 2000, 2005 and 2010:

**Proposition No. 1** would authorize the City of San Antonio to protect the quality and quantity of water in the Edwards Aquifer through the protection of land over the aquifer's sensitive Recharge and Contributing Zones. The sales tax would raise \$100 million: \$90 million of which would enable the City to continue its existing conservation easement and land purchase program, which has protected more than 133,000 acres; and \$10 million to incorporate new recharge protection projects within urbanized areas of Bexar County for additional safeguarding of the City's primary source of drinking water.

**Proposition No. 2** would authorize the City of San Antonio to continue building the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail system by expanding the trail system along San Antonio creekways and providing neighborhood connections on tributaries and would include watershed and water quality protection efforts when developing parks improvements. The sales tax would raise \$80 million that would enable the City – which has completed 46 miles of trail and is currently developing an additional 40 miles of trail – to acquire open space and design and construct linear parks along the Leon Creek, Salado Creek, Medina River, San Antonio River and tributaries such as the Apache, Alazan, Culebra, Huesta, Huebner, Lorence, Martinez, Olmos and San Pedro creeks.

## The Special Charter Amendment Election includes four amendments to change the City Charter, which was first approved by the voters in 1951. The City Charter defines the organization, powers and functions of city government and is the most important legal document of the City, comparable to the constitutions of the United States and State of Texas.

**Charter Amendment No. 1** would add language to the City Charter that states that no streetcar or light rail project could be funded or developed without first receiving approval of the voters in an election.

**Charter Amendment No. 2** would allow City Council members to be paid an annual salary of \$45,722 – equal to the San Antonio area median household income – and the Mayor to be paid an annual salary of \$61,725. City Council members are currently paid \$20 per meeting for a total of \$1,040 per year, and the Mayor is currently paid up to a total of \$4,040 per year. If approved, those individuals elected to the Mayor and City Council at the May 9, 2015 election would be eligible for the salary.

**Charter Amendment No. 3** would amend the Charter so vacancies in the office of the Mayor and City Council would be treated the same. If a vacancy occurs with more than 120 days remaining in the unexpired term of the Mayor or a Council member a special election will be held to fill the vacancy. If less than 120 days remain in the term the City Council appoints an individual to the vacant seat. The proposition would also allow the City Council to appoint a temporary representative until a special election is held.

**Charter Amendment No. 4** would eliminate outdated language in the City Charter that is no longer relevant or has been superseded by state law. For example this amendment will remove outdated references to City departments that have been renamed or no longer exist, update references to the fiscal year to match current practice, and update the process for publication of ordinances. A detailed explanation of these changes is available at [www.sanantonio.gov/Charter](http://www.sanantonio.gov/Charter).

