

ORDINANCE NO. 169-2025(COTW), *Second Reading*

By President Cuda, Vice President Russell,
and Councilmembers Larson, Posch, and
Cobb

An Ordinance providing for the submission to the electors of the City of Cleveland Heights a proposed First Amended Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the 2023-24 Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission (CRC), after reviewing and researching the Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights, on May 29, 2024 submitted a report to the City Council recommending that the Charter be amended and describing and explaining the work of the CRC and the rationale for its recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Heights City Council has had multiple discussions of the report and recommendations of the CRC, including Committee of the Whole meetings on January 25, 2025; February 22, 2025; April 15, 2025; August 14, 2025; and August 21, 2025; as well as a special Council meeting including a hearing to provide an opportunity for public comments on the Charter amendments resulting from the recommendations of the CRC and Council's and the Law Department's review, consideration and revisions of the same, held on August 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, based upon the extent of the revisions to the current Charter that Council believes are needed, Council believes that it should authorize and direct the submission to the electors of the City of the proposed First Amended Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights, attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit A," at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, which election is not less than 60 nor more than 120 days from the passage of this Ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby determines to authorize and direct the submission to the electors of the City of Cleveland Heights at the general election to be held at the usual places of voting in the City on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, the proposed First Amended Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights, attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit A."

SECTION 2. The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is hereby directed to submit the following question to the electors of the City of Cleveland Heights at the general election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 in substantially this form:

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

“Shall the proposed First Amended Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio be adopted?

___ Yes ___ No”

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council is instructed immediately to file a certified copy of this Ordinance and the proposed form of the ballot question with the County Board of Elections not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days prior to November 4, 2025.

SECTION 4. Pursuant to Article XIII of the Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights, if the majority of electors voting thereon vote in favor of adopting the First Amended Charter of the City of City of Cleveland Heights, it shall become effective upon adoption, and all prior charters shall be repealed, except as may otherwise by provided in such First Amended Charter.

SECTION 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council, and that all such deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 6. Notice of the passage of this Ordinance shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights, or by posting the full text of this Resolution to the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 6. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, safety and welfare in the City and for the usual daily operation of the City for the reasons set forth and defined in the preamble, and provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council, this ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption by the Council and approval by the Mayor, or otherwise it shall take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law.



TONY CUDA
President of Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: September 2, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 09/03/2025

Approved: _____

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor