

Ballot Question

Ballot Question: Amend the City Charter to Require Council Approval for Certain Mayoral Appointments

This proposal expands Council approval of mayoral appointments to 20 additional city agency heads. If the Council does not act within 30 days of an appointment, it is automatically approved.

A YES vote means that appointments of 20 additional city agency heads would require Council approval through a public hearing and vote. A NO vote rejects this proposal.

Abstract

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Currently, the Mayor appoints agency heads for most city agencies without Council approval and an accompanying public hearing. However, the Council is already required to approve more than 70 mayoral appointees for positions including, but not limited to, the Corporation Counsel, the Commissioner of Investigation, members of the Conflicts of Interest Board, and most members of the Board of Health and City Planning Commission. The Council considers nominees for these positions through a public hearing process and vote.

This law would add the following 20 city agency heads, currently appointed by the Mayor, to the list of individuals who must be approved by the Council:

- Commissioner for the Aging
- Commissioner of Buildings
- Commissioner of Children's Services
- Commissioner of Citywide Administrative Services
- Commissioner of Consumer and Worker Protection
- Commissioner of Cultural Affairs
- Commissioner of Design and Construction
- Commissioner of Environmental Protection
- Commissioner of Finance
- Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Commissioner of Homeless Services
- Commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development
- Commissioner of Information Technology and Telecommunications
- Commissioner of Parks and Recreation
- Commissioner of Sanitation,
- Commissioner of Small Business Services
- Commissioner of Social Services
- Commissioner of Transportation

- Commissioner of Youth and Community Development
- Director of City Planning

The Council would have 30 days to hold a public hearing and act upon a nomination once it was received. If the Council did not act within 30 days, the nomination would be deemed approved. The Mayor would be required to submit a nomination for a vacancy in an above-referenced position, as well as the Commissioner of Investigation, within 60 days of the vacancy, and would be required to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the position was filled within 120 days of a vacancy.

The law would take effect immediately.