

ORDINANCE NO.: 66 -2014
INTRODUCED BY: Council, as required by Charter Art. XIV

**AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF
RICHMOND HEIGHTS THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE CHARTER
AT ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 2, REGARDING NOMINATIONS AND
QUALIFICATIONS, TO REVISED SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR
BOTH AT-LARGE AND WARD NOMINATING PETITIONS, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee has recommended to place the issue of amending the Charter before the electorate in order to set the signature requirements for nominating petitions for all candidates seeking election to office in the municipality pursuant to Article VIII; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Article XIV, Council shall submit these proposed amendments to the electorate; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitution provides that the Council shall submit the amendments to the electors at the next regular municipal election that occurs not less than 60 or more than 120 days from the passage of such ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Ordained by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, Cuyahoga County, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: There shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City, at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the 4th day of November, 2014, at the regular places of voting in the City during the regular hours of voting on such date as prescribed by general law, the question of the amendment of the Charter of the City of Richmond Heights, at Article VIII, Section 2 – Nominations and Qualifications, so that as amended, it shall read in pertinent part, as follows:

Section 2. NOMINATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

There shall be no primary election for municipal offices. Nominations for municipal elective offices of the Municipality shall be made by petition only. Any such petitions must be signed by not less than ~~two percent (2%) of the registered voters~~ **one hundred and fifty electors (registered voters) for any office to be filled by election from the City, “At-Large” and by no less than fifty (50) electors on petitions for offices to be filled by election from a Ward** of the Municipality, on standard forms for the nomination of nonpartisan candidates for such office and shall be filed with the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County at least ninety (90) days prior to the day of an election. Such nominating petitions shall not be circulated prior to one hundred and fifty (150) days before said election. Each candidate shall file a separate petition. Group

petitions shall not be used. The signature of the candidate indicating ~~his~~ their acceptance of the nomination and willingness to accept the office, if elected, shall appear on each copy of ~~his~~ their nominating petition. The petition may be in a number of parts, but each part shall be verified under oath by the circulator, as required by law.

Section 2: The Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County be, and it is hereby, directed to provide for the voting upon said Amendments and the ballots for said election shall, at the top thereof, be entitled "Proposed Charter Amendment City of Richmond Heights: and the questions to be submitted on said ballot shall be substantially in the following words:

"Shall Article VIII, Section 2 be amended to require signatures of not less than one hundred and fifty (150) electors (registered voters) on petitions for nomination for an office to be filled from the City, "At-Large", and to require that petitions for offices to be filled from a Ward shall be signed by no less than fifty (50) electors(registered voters) residing in that ward?"

Section 3: The Clerk of Council is directed to give notice of the above proposed Charter amendments to the electors of the City in accordance with general law, and to certify a copy of this Ordinance to the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, Ohio as provided by law.

Section 4: The Director of Finance is authorized and directed to appropriate from the general fund a sum sufficient to pay the cost of publishing said notice referred to in Section 3.

Section 5: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all 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, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 6: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the City of Richmond Heights for the reason that is necessary to timely submit the proposed Charter Amendments to the Board of Elections for placement upon the ballot for the general election to be held on November 4, 2014, in compliance with the Ohio Constitution and the City Charter, and therefore, shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval of the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

Miesha W. Headen, Mayor

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

David H. Roche,
President of Council