



**City of Albuquerque  
Charter Review Task Force**

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center  
Vincent E. Griego Chambers  
Basement Level**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

Members Present:

Wendy York, Chair  
David Campbell  
Dan Silva  
Chuck Gara  
Marty Esquivel  
Michael Passi  
Herb Hughes  
Diana Dorn-Jones  
Susan Jones  
David Standridge  
Eli Il Yong Lee  
Laura Horton  
Steve Gallegos

Council/Administration Staff Present:

Laura Mason  
Randy Autio  
Robert Kidd  
Crystal Ortega  
Elizabeth Shields  
Tony Pedroncelli  
Luz Carreon

Excused:

Vickie Perea  
Gloria Valencia-Weber

Chair York called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**1. Approval of Summary Minutes – March 10, 2009**

Mr. Passi moved approval of the March 10, 2009 summary minutes as amended, Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a 13-0 vote, with Ms. Perea and Ms. Valencia-Weber excused.

## **2. Public Comment**

Silvio Dell'Angela  
Geraldine Amato  
Gail Prinkey

Mr. Dell'Angela urged the Task Force to look into the city manager form of government.

Ms. Amato spoke regarding government laws and procedures.

Ms. Prinkey read a letter from the League of Women Voters and thanked the Task Force members for their work on the Charter revisions.

## **3. Review Following Documents:**

### **a. Summary of Amendments**

### **b. Revisions of Task Force Up To and Including Meeting of 3/10/09**

The Task Force members discussed how to proceed with remaining issues and doing a final review of the proposed amendments. The Task Force members decided to hear three issues and no more new issues. The three issues were 1) a proposal to amend Article II to clarify how the different sections in the Charter regarding elections relate to one another, 2) proposed amendments to the Open and Ethical Elections Code (Article XVI), and 3) proposed amendments to the Election Code (Article XIII) regarding measure finance committees.

Mr. Hughes presented and explained proposed language for Article II Elections (new Section 1). This language is intended to explain the requirements for obtaining signatures for candidates and to clarify the relationship between the requirements for candidates using public financing and those using private financing.

After discussion, Mr. Hughes moved the language for Article II Elections, Section 1, Charter Elections Laws. The motion passed on a 12-1 vote with Mr. Campbell opposed and Ms. Perea and Ms. Valencia-Weber excused.

The following is the final language for Article II. Elections Section 1. Charter Elections Laws:

“Article II, Elections, Article XIII, Election Code, and Article XVI, Open and Ethical Elections Code, all govern elections in Albuquerque. Article II sets forth candidate qualifications, governing law, and the non-partisan election process. Article XIII establishes campaign reporting requirements, contribution limitations, and the regulation of campaign practices by the Board of Ethics. Article XVI allows candidates to run for office with public financing. Candidates may choose to run for office with either public financing or private financing. Whether publicly or privately financed, a candidate must meet the Section 3[4] qualification requirement of petition signatures of 2% of registered voters.”

The Task Force then took up the issue of amendments to Article XVI, the Open and Ethical Elections Code. After discussion, Mr. Passi moved that the Task Force refrain from making any changes to the Open and Ethical Elections Code at this time. He stated that after the upcoming mayoral election is over, the Council will have a better

idea of what changes should be made. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 9-4 vote with Mr. Silva, Mr. Standridge, Mr. Gallegos and Ms. Dorn-Jones opposed and Ms. Perea and Ms. Valencia-Weber excused.

Mr. Gallegos stated that if the Task Force would not be submitting proposed amendments to the Open and Ethical Elections Code, it should suggest to the Council areas or issues that the Council should review. He moved that the Task Force encourage the Council to look at the public financing provisions. Mr. Passi seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 13-0 vote with Ms. Perea and Ms. Valencia-Weber excused.

The Task Force then discussed specific issues in Article XVI that the Task Force would ask the Council to review. After the Task Force members suggested specific issues, Chair York went through the list and asked for a vote on each of the following suggestions:

1. The five dollar contribution amount. (12-1 vote in favor with Ms. Jones opposed.)
2. The time limit for gathering signatures. (11-2 vote in favor with Ms. Jones and Mr. Lee opposed.)
3. The form that is required to be filled out when an individual makes a contribution. (13-0 vote in favor.)
4. Whether to repeal all of Article XVI. (failed on a 3-10 vote with Mr. Silva, Mr. Standridge and Mr. Gallegos voting in favor.)
5. Whether public financing has increased public trust in the election process. (10-3 vote in favor with Mr. Esquivel, Mr. Standridge and Mr. Gallegos opposed.)
6. Whether public financing has removed the influence of special interests in city government and if so, how. (7-6 vote in favor with Mr. Gallegos, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Silva, Mr. Standridge and Mr. Esquivel opposed.)
7. An overall review of the public financing process. (11-1 vote with Mr. Lee opposed and Ms. Jones abstaining.)

The Task Force then discussed amendments proposed by Mr. Gara to amend Article XIII, the Election Code. The proposed language amends the definition of "Measure Finance Committee" and the registration and filing requirements as well as requirements for the distribution of campaign materials by such committees. Ms. Horton proposed an amendment to include communication via the internet. After discussion, Chair York requested that the City Attorney review the proposed language and submit an opinion to the Task Force prior to the next Task Force meeting.

#### **4. Next Meeting – April 23, 2009**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the Council Committee Room.

#### **5. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**Handouts distributed to Task Force members:**

- Summary of Changes by Article
- Changes to the Charter to date
- Revised Page 30
- Article II. Elections (New Section1) from Mr. Hughes and Mr. Autio
- Article XIII. Election Code amendments from Mr. Gara