

# Changes eyed for Hills charter

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 dately, the proposed amendments include:  
 • Requiring candidates who are filling a council vacancy to run for election during the regular city council election rather than during a presidential election. The charter calls for filling the vacancy at the next November general election after a vacancy has opened.  
 • Eliminating the current charter provision requiring a board or commission member to resign if running for city council election.  
 • Changing provisions regarding to the Board of Review so they comply with state law.

"It's always good to look at the city charter and bring it up to date," said Bob McConnell, a charter commissioner and Farmington Township's last supervisor before incorporation as a city. While McConnell had little problem with allowing a newly elected candidate to take office immediately, he opposed restricting terms of office.  
 "I respectfully request that you don't restrict this right of the citizens to make that determination of who will serve their interests and the interests

of the city," McConnell said, referring to veteran city leaders such as Dolan, Floyd Cairns, Earl Oppenheimer and Fred Lichtman.  
 Cairns, who now serves as a consultant to the city, agreed.  
 "I think it would be wrong to limit to two terms," he said.  
 Although she later withdrew the proposed restriction on council terms, Dudley favored limiting the number of years an individual council member could serve the city at one time.  
 "I've always maintained if you can't do it in eight years, you just can't do it," Dudley said.

**MAKING CLEAR** her intentions, Dudley referred to the recent Farmington Board of Education election in which 14 candidates threw their hats into the political ring when two veteran members decided not to seek re-election.  
 "New blood, I guess, is the theme," Dudley said.  
 While McConnell favored maintaining primary elections to reduce a large field of candidates, some council members supported its elimination.  
 "It's just an unnecessary expense for both candidates and the city," said

Councilman Joe Alkateeb.  
 Other than Dolan, who said she had no strong feelings about eliminating a primary, Donn Wolf was the only council member who favored maintaining such an election. Primary elections, he said, allow voters to come to a consensus on the candidates.  
 All council members agreed with eliminating the requirement for board or commission members to resign if running for city council election.  
 Reviewing and revising provisions of the city charter originally surfaced in January when Councilman Ben Marks, a charter commissioner, asked his colleagues to consider requiring city council members to resign their post if running for election to a higher office.

"I'm looking for consistency," Marks said in January, adding that the requirement should be eliminated or extended to include board and commission members as well as city council members seeking higher office.  
**ALTHOUGH COUNCIL** has not delved publicly into the proposed charter changes suggested in January, the proposed amendment on the ballot in November is expected to call for the elimination of the need to resign in or-

der to seek higher office.  
 "I think there is an unfair advantage," said Marks, referring to notions that a board or commission member has a political advantage over an unknown.  
 The proposed amendment allowing newly elected council members to take office immediately after the election is verified rather than waiting until Jan. 1 drew some council members' support and others' apathy.  
 Holding an election to fill a vacancy during the regular city council election rather than a presidential election year also drew support from the council. Members referred to the competition and expense of running a local campaign during a presidential year.

# Mayor wins her way

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 find difficulty in accepting that argument at this time," Dudley said.  
 "I would be surprised that the person who must argue for that support is not saying it."

Encouraging Kurzeja's recommendation for appointment, Dudley said: "Mrs. Kurzeja has asked little from this city so far."  
 "I have a time for Mrs. Kurzeja to be appointed. Nowhere do I see a college degree requirement or long-term pro-

fessional experience a requirement for the position."  
 Councilman Joe Alkateeb joined Dudley's chorus of praise, adding that dedication, such as Kurzeja's, is one of the most important qualifications needed to serve on a city board or commission.

"As you all know she is always here," Alkateeb said, referring to Kurzeja's attendance at council meetings.  
 "She has attended more council meetings than Mr. Williams has," Alkateeb added.



Massie Kurzeja

# Scholar honored

Paul R. Gurizian of Farmington Hills has been named one of 10 Sobeys Scholars at GMI Engineering & Management Institute in Flint, Mich.  
 Gurizian was honored at GMI's commencement June 21. He received his bachelor of science degree in industrial administration at the commencement ceremony. Gurizian has been sponsored by Motors Trading Corp. while a student at GMI.  
 The Sobeys Scholar Awards are the highest academic recognition at GMI. They are presented annually in memory of Albert Sobeys, the founder and first president of GMI.  
 Gurizian is a member of Sigma Alpha Chi, the National Industrial Administration Honor Society; Phi Eta Sigma, the Freshman National Honor Society; and GMI's Robot Society. He is the son of Otto and Carmen Gurizian of Farmington Hills.

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