

Hills voters to consider charter changes

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on Jan. 1, following the election?

Under the current provision, outgoing council members — incumbents who lost the recent election or those who chose not to seek re-election — must continue to serve until Jan. 1, when the newly elected members take office.

The amendment would eliminate lame-duck council members and require newly elected members to take office immediately following the election's verification.

PROPOSITION B

Shall the city charter, subsection C of section 3.02 relating to the filling of council vacancies be amended to provide that vacancies to be filled at the next odd-year general election rather than at the next November general election?

If passed, the amendment would require candidates filling a council vacancy to serve until the next regular odd-year city council election. This would eliminate running the risk that city candidates would be forced to seek

election during a presidential election year and the commonly lengthy ballot passage of this amendment would not eliminate the council's ability to appoint someone to fill a council vacancy.

When the Farmington Hills City Council last January suggested putting this proposition on the ballot, members referred to the overwhelming competition and expense of running during a presidential election. Voters in these elections tend to put more emphasis on the ballot for state and federal offices rather than local ones, said City Clerk

Joan Reynolds.

PROPOSITION C

Shall the city charter of the city of Farmington Hills, section 3.01C and 3.02A, be amended to eliminate the need for a primary election for the nomination of candidates to the city council?

Under the current provision, the city must hold a primary election if the number of candidates running is twice as many as the number of open seats. In the city's non-partisan elections, a primary has been used to simply reduce the number of candidates, Reynolds said.

In the city's 12-year history, only two primaries have been held. The first was in 1977 when 11 candidates ran for four seats. The primary eliminated three of the candidates. The second was in 1979 when 10 candidates ran for four seats. Two candidates were eliminated in the primary.

Elimination of the primary would also save the city between \$10,000-15,000 — the cost of such an election, Reynolds said. In the event that nine candidates are vying for four seats, the city has to bear the expense of a primary to eliminate only one candidate. Putting additional names on an election ballot does not represent a problem or a major expense, Reynolds said.

PROPOSITION D

Shall the city charter of the city of Farmington Hills, Section 3.02C be amended to allow members of boards and commissions to become candidates for election to the council without first resigning from said appointed position?

Under the current provision, mem-

bers of any city-appointed board or commission must resign that position to run for city council. Farmington Hills council candidate Jonathan Grant was recently forced to resign his position as vice president of the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees. In 1984, Councilman Ben Marks was forced to resign his position on the Farmington Hills Planning Commission to seek council election.

Passage of the proposition would bring consistency to election qualifications in the city charter, which does not require city council members to resign their positions when seeking election to county and state office.

If the amendment is passed, board or commission members who are council candidates would be allowed to continue in their positions if they lose the election, Reynolds said.

PROPOSITION E

Shall the city charter of the city of Farmington Hills, section 7.00B, meetings of the board of review, be amended to change the convening date of the board of review to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March to review the assessment roll, and to change the public hearing dates to begin on the second Monday in March, and to provide notice of assessments to all property owners when their assessed valuation is increased?

If passed, the amendment will accomplish two changes in the city's Board of Review process, said Assessor Dean Babb. The charter currently requires the Board of Review to hear cases for two weeks beginning on the first working day of March.

Changing the provision to require the Board of Review to convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March will provide the board with more time to review property owners' cases and to complete all necessary work. Total review of the city's assessment roll must be completed by the first Monday in April, Babb said.

"It will move up the schedule dates so we start hearings earlier (in the month)," he said.

If the amendment passes, the city would conform to a schedule followed by Michigan townships. The state, Babb said, does not require cities to follow the township schedule.

A second change that would occur if the amendment passes relates to the city's assessment notification procedures. Under current city charter, the city is required to notify property owners only if assessments increased by 5 or more percent. The amendment would require that the city notify property owners of any increase in assessments, Babb said.

Passage of the amendment would bring the city charter into compliance with state law.

Technion grabs spotlight

Continued from Page 1

— is the core of Israeli high technology.

"THROUGH HIGH technology, Israel gets its best return on its best piece of capital — her men and women," Churchill said.

He called the importance of high technology in Israel "desperate." The direct use of technology in Israel is first, defense, and second, industry and commerce, he said. "It is only through outside support that the Technion can continue to survive."

"Miracles can happen," he said. "The state of Israel is one of them." Churchill said he has a vision that "one day, there will be peace and harmony in the Middle East."

"Camp David had to be the first step," Churchill said.

CHURCHILL CALLED the 1978 U.S.-initiated Israeli-Egyptian peace accords at Camp David a necessary first step toward peace in the Middle East.

The second step should not be negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Churchill said. The second step, which Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, strongly supports, is peace talks with Jordan's King Hussein.

His own great anxiety about peace in the Middle East is the rapid spread of nuclear technology and weapons. If they had the firepower, Churchill maintained, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi wouldn't hesitate to use a nuclear

bomb on Egypt and Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini wouldn't hesitate to bomb Iraq. And if Iraq had a bomb, Iran would be blown off the map. And all three nations would drop a nuclear bomb "with gusto on Israel," if they had one.

IN 1967, Churchill said he learned "an unique lesson in history" from David Ben-Gurion, former Israeli prime minister.

Churchill met Ben-Gurion for breakfast at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. As they met, the 7 a.m. news announced that Gamal Abdel Nasser, then Egyptian president, had closed the Straits of Tiber and blocked the Gulf of Aqaba.

Ben-Gurion said to Churchill, "This means war." The Six-Day War began shortly after the conversation. Ben-Gurion asked Churchill, "What is defeat for the Arabs?"

The question went unanswered. "For Israel," Churchill quoted Ben-Gurion, "defeat means extinction of a nation, and the ending of all our dreams."

THE TWO men looked out over old Jerusalem and the city of David, which houses 5,000 years of Jewish history.

Churchill called this conversation "a deeply moving mystical experience."

Churchill, however, recognizes the interests and rights of the homeless Palestinian people. After visiting Palestinian refugee camps in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, he called the Palestinians "hopelessness, stark and horrifying." In contrast, Churchill noted that Is-

rael does "everything possible" to help refugees. Jews from Morocco, Eastern Europe, Yemen and, most recently, Ethiopia have all found refuge in Israel, he said.

BUT THE Palestinian Arabs have no such refuge. Palestinians have been shunned and kept in concentration-like refugee camps by their leadership, Churchill maintained.

"Oil sheiks could so easily help them (Palestinian refugees)," he maintained. They (Palestinian refugees) are kept there (in refugee camps) as a permanent sense of grievance" to the whole world.

"I do believe it's (the situation in the Middle East) capable of resolution," Churchill stressed.

He quoted a favorite maxim of his grandfather's as the message to both Israel and Technion supporters: "Always grasp the larger."

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