

We the People Save the Republic
Political Action Committee

September 30, 2025

Our Recommendation to the City Council to Adopt Special Committee



A Plan to Establish a Special Committee to Discuss Potential Changes to the Alignment to Citywide Council Composition

The City of Sioux Falls has seen such population growth since the year 1990, that our current population is on a record pace, making Sioux Falls one of the fastest growing cities of the Upper Midwest. As a resident of the city, in 2021, I participated in a discussion with the Charter Revision Commission that took part in discussing the future composition of the City Council in the years ahead. I should be creating a Sioux Falls Central Committee allowing the voters to elect one precinct man and one precinct woman per each precinct under each district.

Introduction:

In regards to the 2021 and 2023 Charter Revision Commission sessions, both the Mayor's Office and City Council have the same exact powers of governing over the City Government. Even under a more clear separation of powers, both require each other in order to achieve their goals.

Under my vision, I am seeking a balance of power that makes the City stronger, and under my proposed changes to Charter Section 2.02 and 6.02 I envision the following.



Directed to the Mayor, to all City Council Members, to all the Residents of the City of Sioux Falls, to all the Landowners, Property Holders, Business Owners, to all our Corporate Partners – I present to you my “Resolution” a promise to hold such public discussion to create conversation going forward to address our growing city, our population growth, let alone to continue to work together to establish a more effective central government, let alone to continue on what we started in 1994, to Shape the City of Sioux Falls long into the future, with the goal of better, more effective government.

We are living in a period in which we are seeing such growth, both in regards to population, let alone financial growth.

And as the City of Sioux Falls continues along the traditions, the progression set forth by our ancestors, from both the early settlers, those townships first created by the Western Town Company, the Village of Sioux Falls, and of by the Dakota Land Company, Sioux Falls City, and of which the formation of the Town of Sioux Falls in 1879, to the City of Sioux Falls established in 1994, we owe it to all those who came before us to continue in their legacy, their principles, their achievements, and their desire to establish a strong community of American Citizens of whom had the desire to invest, develop, and to maintain a profitable city, and a well balanced form of leadership that keeps to conservative approach to shaping the city forward.

The Next Chapter of Sioux Falls, begins with the next City Council Session, which will soon begin in the year 2024, of which that body, along with the TenHaken Administration, and its successor - will play a huge role in we govern the city over the next thirty, to fifty years.

The “People of Sioux Falls” have shaped a pathway, of which every forty, to fifty years, ‘we’ have amended, or slightly changed how we chose to govern our little Town on the Prairie - from the early exploration period of 1832, to the Board of Directors governing over the Townships (1857 to 1866), the Commission form of Government from 1879 to 1994, to the Creation of the Strong Mayor and City Council form of Government from 1995 to today, ‘We’ have finally reached that next progression which is set to take place in the year 2030.

What will our next Style of Government be like in the years ahead?

I believe, We Do Not Have to Greatly Change Our Form of Government, the Strong Mayor, Strong City Council Works Just Fine, But I do Wish to Give to the Re-Districting Commission more authority in Adding, Subtracting Districts as the Population Changes.

But I am Recommending that We the People, Create a Special Commission to have such Discussion.

Whereas, In Accordance with Charter Section 6.02 (c) (1) Following each decennial census or upon reliable evidence that the city's population has increased more than 15% since the last redistricting, the commission shall consult the city council and shall prepare a plan for dividing the city into districts for the election of council members. In preparing the plan, the commission shall be guided by the criteria set forth in section 6.02(d). The report on the plan shall include a map and description of districts recommended.

Whereas, Pursuant to SDCL 9-2-2 For the purpose of classification the population of each municipality shall be determined by the last preceding federal census. Whenever the enumeration of such last preceding census was made with reference to territory substantially different from that embraced by the boundaries of the municipality, the governing body by resolution may authorize and direct its auditor or clerk to determine the population by filing in his office a certificate showing the whole number of persons who voted at the last preceding annual municipal election, which number multiplied by three shall constitute the population for the purpose of classification until the next federal census shall have been completed.

Whereas, the 2021 Charter Revision Commission noted the City of Sioux Falls had a population of 100,836 in the year 1990 ahead of the City Charter being adopted in 1994. Since then, the population of the city has grown by more than 91,681 residents, and increase of more than ninety (90) percent, and assessed that the population of the city may approximately be 222,517 residents with each of the five(5) districts having 44,503 residents each.

Whereas, It was noted that the average city with a population of 222,974 residents has 9 city districts providing the residents have an equal voice of 1 person per 29,974 residents each.

Whereas, It was noted that at the time the charter was adopted, there was an interest in districts, but a strong trepidation about parochialism existed, while it was also duly noted that local preference should decide the ratio of district members to at-large members, while a strong majority of the council shall be elected by and from districts. The at-large representatives shall exist to protect the majority from popular opinion as they relate to the overall common interest of the city.

Whereas, it should be duly noted that the Founding Fathers at the time of adopting the United States Constitution preferred that the people have 1 equal voice per 30,000 Americans per district;

Whereas, the South Dakota Legislature is equally aligned in equal sized districts at 35 districts of twenty-five(25) thousand citizens.

Whereas, the 2021 Charter Revision Commission discovered that the City of Sioux Falls is the only city in the State of South Dakota to form and utilize a Districting Commission to study, analyze, assess, and discuss publically effective means to align municipalities within the State itself.

Whereas, James Madison introduced the notion that a strong republican form of government ultimately depends on the virtue of the people. Without virtue, "nothing less than the chains of despotism can restrain them from destroying and devouring one another."

Whereas, In Accordance with the South Dakota Constitution Article 6, Section 27, the Maintenance of free Government may only exist if the blessings of a free government may only be maintained by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality and virtue and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA:

By adopting this resolution, the City of Sioux Falls, "The City", which means all the residents, the governing body, the mayor, shall so take up public discussion to engage in good faith the topic of city council composition. The following criteria shall be part of public discussion, and that discussion shall last as long as necessary in order to allow the people participate in such discussion ahead of the 2030 General Census:

1. The Mayor and City Council shall appoint a qualified group of residents to act as members of the Special Commission to conduct public meetings related to Charter Section 6.02;
2. The Special Commission shall consist of one member from each of the five(5) council districts, two members from the Charter Revision Commission, two members from the Re-Districting Commission, and one member of the City Council, and a designated member from the City Attorney Office;
3. The Special Commission shall discuss publicly historical statistics related to city population, future growth patterns as it relates to council composition, a variant analyzation of other cities showing comparisons of how other cities align their governing bodies, and research and discuss what constitutes the proper size of a district, in relation to the ratio of district members to at-large members;
4. The Special Commission shall discuss publicly the notion of big vs small districts, in relation to providing the residents a more conservative, but strong representative voice of the residents;
5. The Special Commission shall meet no less than two(2) times each year, thru the year 2030, or until the commission submits a future plan to the city council, which shall formally adopt a future concept, which of course is to revise Charter Section 6.02 by Public Vote.
6. The Special Commission shall discuss the proper roles of the District Members vs the At-Large Members, and the notion of an odd numbered city council, including no less than 2 at-large members.
7. The goals of this Special Commission should be to decrease the population size of each district to fit the narrative of a well represented governing body, and to have as few residents as necessary to fit a narrow scope, narrow mindedness popular opinion of such a district.
8. The Special Commission must discuss the creation of an expanded central core of the city, to include a DowntownBusiness District relative in general to protect the needs and desires of those within the core;
9. The Special Commission shall allow for as much public discussion be taken before each public meeting, providing the residents no less than five(5) minutes of public testimony on the the subject at the beginning of the agenda, and all public testimony shall be recorded, archived, and feedback provided in return;
10. The Special Commission shall deliver to the City Council a report at the end of each year, no later than November 30th, to update the city council on their analysis, findings, and public opinion of the residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA: This resolution shall become effective upon its adoption, and shall direct the City Clerk to publish, and made available to all residents who request a formal copy in the office of the City Clerk. And shall remain effective upon the special commission formally adopting a concept plan, submitted to the governing body of the city, to vote up or down on the recommended proposed concept. The public discussion shall continue until a public vote shall be taken at a future city wide public election of the electors.



A Plan to Make a More Representative Government Shape Sioux Falls 2026 to 2030.

As the 2025 Charter Revision Commission meets this year, I am recommending the Mayor, City Council, to put forth a plan to Appoint a **Special Commission**, and to Begin Discussions to Mold the Next Chapter of City Government.

The **City Council**, **Redistricting Commission** and **Charter Revision Commission** must all work together over the next Four Years to Discuss the Next Chapter of the Community. My Vision is designed to Reconnect Our Past, Our Present, and Our Future.

With So Many Groups Coming Forward to Discuss Changing Our City Government, I believe the best path forward is to engage with the public over a period of years leading into the upcoming census, in order to determine what the City Council Composition should look like.

This Recommendation Presented by Mike Zitterich, Resident of the City.