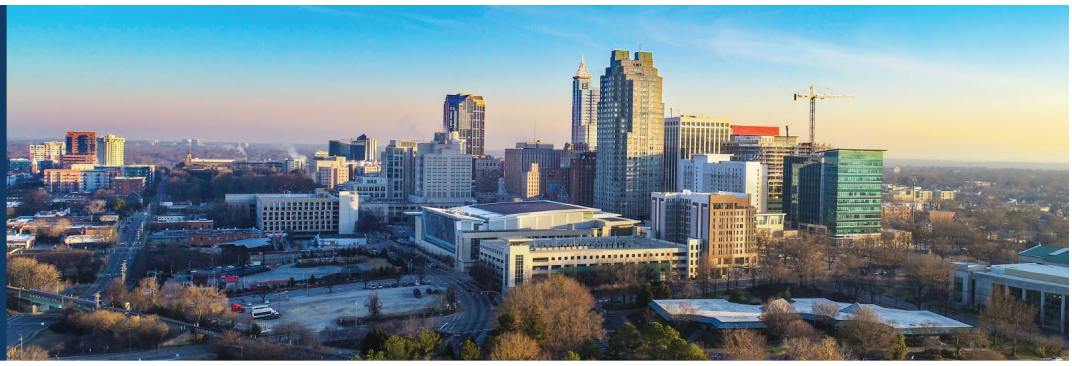
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2022-06 February 11, 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Walnut Creek Trail Closure with Detour
Water and Sewer Capital Facility Fees - Public Comment
Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

Panhandling and Use of Cameras in Public Spaces (Council Member Knight)
Use of Force (Council Member Cox)
Public Comment - Protest Activity
Resident Feedback - Council Terms and Compensation (Council Member Branch)

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, February 15; 11:30 Work Session

Council will meet in regular work session at **11:30 A.M.** Please note the agenda for the lunch work session is included with the regular meeting agenda and may be accessed via the BoardDocs electronic agenda system:

https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf

The **regular** Council meeting begins at **1:00 P.M.**

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to pull from the consent agenda for discussion, please e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. the day of the meeting.

You will be receiving information on joining the WebEx Events session on Monday; staff will be available to assist with log ins and joining the virtual City Council meeting.

Upcoming Budget Work Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet in scheduled budget work sessions in advance of the FY2022-23 proposed budget as follows:

Monday, February 21, 4:00 P.M.
Monday, March 14, 4:00 P.M.
Monday, April 11, 4:00 P.M.

INFORMATION:

Walnut Creek Trail Closure with Detour

Staff Resource: Kris Nikfar, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources, 996-4786, kris.nikfar@raleighnc.gov

A section of the Walnut Creek Trail between Avent Ferry Road and Capability Drive will be periodically closed due to the construction of the Walnut Creek at Trailwood project. Closures are anticipated to be infrequent and short in duration when they occur, and a detour will be provided along Capability Drive, Varsity Drive and Avent Ferry Road during these times.

The Walnut Creek at Trailwood project consists of the completion of a ¼ mile trail gap in the Walnut Creek Corridor between Trailwood Drive and NC State's Centennial Campus. This extension will allow users to forgo using the sidewalk along Avent Ferry Road to remain on the Walnut Creek Trail providing a continuous 10-foot-wide asphalt trail along the entire corridor. For more information on the Walnut Creek Trail at Trailwood Drive project, please visit the project webpage.

(No attachment)

Water and Sewer Capital Facility Fees - Public Comment

Staff Resource: Stephen Balmer, Raleigh Water, 996-3523, stephen.balmer@raleighnc.gov

System development fees are one-time fees charged to new developments connecting to a utility system for the first time. These fees are designed to help recover the cost of the capacity and infrastructure necessary to provide utility service to new customers.

In 2017 new requirements for system development fees were enacted the North Carolina General Assembly. The City timely adopted new fees effective on July 1, 2018. The law requires readoption of these fees at least every five years.

Water and Sewer System Development Fees are referred to as Water and Sewer Capital Facility Fees in the area served by Raleigh Water. Consistent with the system development fees legislation, the fees are proposed to be updated for Fiscal Year 2023. As it did in 2017, the City retained Raftelis, an industry leader, to produce an analysis calculating appropriate Water and Sewer Capital Facilities Fees.

Raftelis has completed a draft analysis of the facility fees. The statutes require the analysis be posted on the City website for a 45-day public comment period. Raftelis must consider any comments made during this period and prepare possible modifications or revisions into the final report.

Staff expects to post the draft analysis and supporting information to the website no later than Wednesday February 16 and is coordinating with Development Services and the Office of Community Engagement to reach stakeholders in the development community. A proposed fee structure is scheduled to be discussed during the April 11 budget work session.

(No attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Special Events Office, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from the January 18 City Council Meeting

Panhandling and Use of Cameras in Public Spaces (Council Member Knight)

Staff Resources: Chief Estella Patterson, Police, 996-3155, estella.patterson@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council requested information on how the ACORNS unit can more strategically handle panhandling and the use of cameras in public spaces. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum in response to the request.

(Attachment)

Use of Force (Council Member Cox)

Staff Resources: Chief Estella Patterson, Police, 996-3155, estella.patterson@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council requested information on what triggers the use of force in police operations as well as an explanation of the continuum of force policy. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum in response to the request.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from the February 1 City Council Meeting

Public Comment - Protest Activity

Staff Resources: Chief Estella Patterson, Police, 996-3155, estella.patterson@raleighnc.gov

During the Public Comment portion of the evening session, a speaker referenced the recent protest walk/march held in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day activities and the reported use of an LRAD device when marchers failed to disperse from the street. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum in response to the comments.

(Attachment)

Resident Feedback - Council Terms and Compensation (Council Member Branch)

Staff Resource: Tiesha Hinton, Community Engagement Office, 996-2707, tiesha.hinton@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting staff provided a presentation that highlighted the outreach methods to obtain input on council terms and compensation. Following the presentation, Council requested that staff provide the comments from the online survey instrument.

Included with the *Update* materials is a report on the survey analytics. Although demographic data is included as a part of the survey, responses to demographic questions were not mandatory.

(Attachment)

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

Valentine's Day Drive-In Movie
Dorothea Dix Park, Big Field
Saturday, February 12
Event Time: 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Associated Road Closures: Barbour Drive/Biggs Drive between Blair Drive and Goode Street will be closed and Big Field will be used from 4:00pm until 11:00pm.

Run for the Roses 5K
Dorothea Dix Park
Sunday, February 13
Event Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Associated Road Closures: Whiteside Drive between Umstead Drive and Biggs Drive will be closed from 10:00am until 4:30pm. Roads will be closed from 1:50pm until 3:30pm to facilitate the route. View route here and see below for turn-by-turn details:

Start at Whiteside Drive; Right onto Biggs Drive; Right onto Ruggles Drive; Left onto Umstead Drive; Right onto Dawkins Drive; Left onto Umstead Drive; Right onto Ruggles Drive; Left onto Biggs Drive; Right onto Palmer Drive; Left onto Cranmer Drive; Left onto Umstead Drive; Right onto S. Boylan Avenue; Left onto Tate Drive; Right onto Richardson Drive; Left onto Umstead Drive; Right onto Palmer Drive; Right onto Biggs Drive; Right onto Whiteside Drive to finish.

Other Upcoming Events

Dancing in the Street: The Music of Motown – North Carolina Symphony
Friday, February 11 & Saturday, February 12
Meymandi Concert Hall

CINCH World's Toughest Rodeo
Saturday, February 12
PNC Arena

African American Genealogy Symposium
Saturday, February 12 & Sunday, February 13
Virtual

Dino & Dragon Stroll
Saturday, February 12 & Sunday, February 13
Raleigh Convention Center

Romeo and Juliet – Carolina Ballet
Saturday, February 12 – Sunday, February 20
Fletcher Opera Theater

Hurricanes vs. Panthers
Wednesday, February 16 (rescheduled from December 27)
PNC Arena

Chris Fleming: Tricky Tricky
Thursday, February 17
Fletcher Opera Theater

Public Resources

Pilot Text Alert Program: Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

Event Feedback Form: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

Road Closure and Road Race Map: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

Online Events Calendar: View all currently scheduled events that impact City streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.

Council Member Follow Up

Raleigh

memo

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
From	Estella D. Patterson, Chief of Police EDP
Department	Police
Date	February 3, 2022
Subject	ACORNS Panhandling Inquiry by Council Member Knight

An update has been requested by City Council regarding the ACORNS Team and the panhandling ordinances. The following information provides a response to the request:

The ACORNS Team has worked with the RPD's Public Affairs Office to update the Panhandling and Begging Brochure with current resources. The new brochure has been provided along with this memorandum. This brochure is distributed by Community Squads and patrol officers who engage individuals that are panhandling. The officers that engage these individuals panhandling in their district work to explain the city ordinances and offer to have the ACORNS Unit connect with individuals who are accepting of receiving assistance. The ACORNS Unit has received 83 referrals for interventions from Raleigh PD personnel since October 2021.

Specifically, regarding District E, ACORNS Team members have engaged with individuals to provide referrals and further assistance. The following examples illustrate this effort:

- ACORNS Unit received a request on October 15, 2021 from Council Member Knight. ACORNS Detective Clark and ACORNS Social Worker Azalea Garza-Orozco responded to the Five Points area, in front of Hayes Barton Baptist Church, and spoke with an individual that was panhandling. Although the individual was not experiencing homelessness, the individual was connected to services in Raleigh. The individual was also interested in assistance from the ACORNS Team but has since declined further. The individual does have a source of income.

- Another individual that spent a considerable amount of time panhandling on Glenwood Avenue near Crabtree Valley Mall was assisted by the ACORNS Team until the individual moved out of state with family members. Prior to the move, ACORNS Social Worker Azalea Garza-Orozco was able to assist the individual with getting government assistance (food stamps) and clothing. She scheduled the individual's medical appointments and completed the homeless verification documentation needed for services. The ACORNS Team also transported the individual to various appointments.

- The team also ensured a proper investigation was conducted when the individual was hit by a vehicle on New Bern Avenue and hospitalized for several days. Social Worker Azalea Garza-Orozco gave proper guidance to the individual's support network so the individual could receive the appropriate care out-of-state.

The ACORNS Team has also collaborated with the District Community Squads when inquiries have been made regarding encampments on private property.

Most recently, the ACORNS Team has been working with the Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End Homelessness, the Wake Continuum of Care, Healing Transitions and Oak City Cares. During the month of January, the ACORNS Team provided assistance for the Point in Time Count of individuals experiencing homelessness that occurred on January 26th. Raleigh PD hosted two sites for donation drop offs for the Point in Time Count. The ACORNS Team also responded to several locations on January 26 and January 27 to survey individuals for services and assistance needs.

The ACORNS Team will continue to coordinate with Community Squads and patrol officers within RPD's patrol districts. The Community Squad will continue to monitor these areas for repeat individuals and continue to make referrals and take enforcement action when appropriate.

Support Agencies

Access Hub- Get Connected with Services
919.443.0096
1430 S Wilmington St.

Oak City Cares
984.344.9599
1430 S Wilmington St.

Church of the Good Shepard- Soup Kitchen
11am-12pm
121 W Morgan St.

Salvation Army- Dinner Service
5-6pm
1863 Capital Blvd.

AMEC Shelter (Men):
919.834.3734
412 Capital Blvd.

Healing Transitions
919.838.9800
1251 Goode St. (Men)
3304 Glen Royal Road (Women)

Helen Wright Center (Single Women)
919.833.1748
401 W Cabarrus St/3603 Bastion Ln.

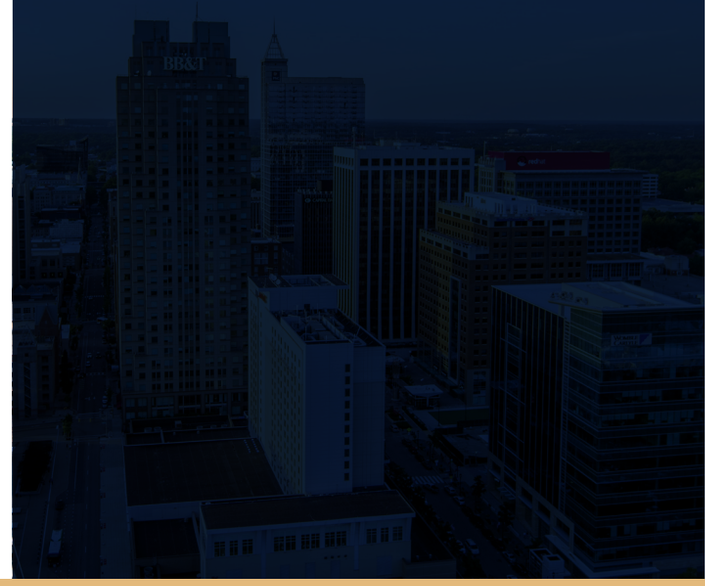
Helping Hand Mission
(Food Pantry and Clothing)
919.829.8048
623 Rock Quarry Rd.

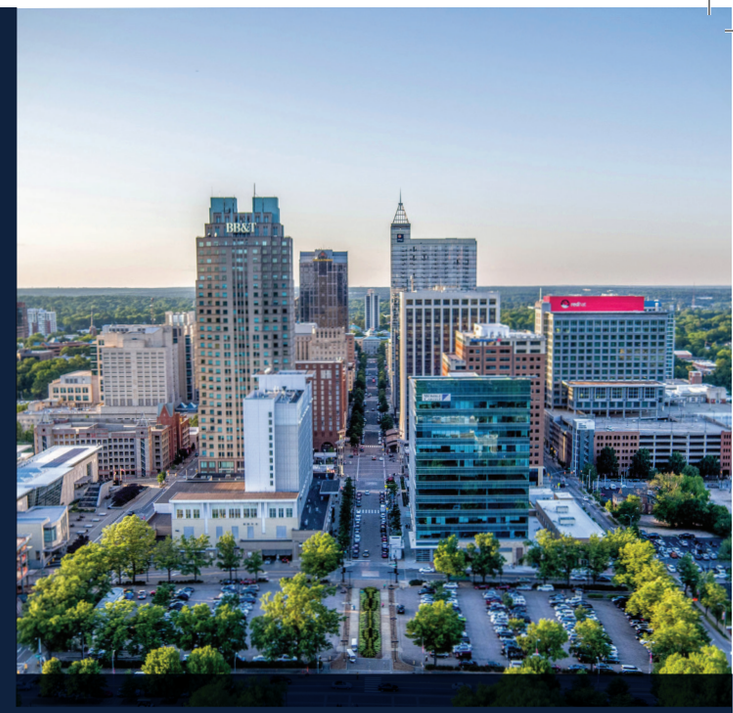
Women's Center of Wake County
(Day Shelter)
919.829.3711
400 S West St.

***RCC 12-1026d:**
No person shall stand, sit, or loiter in the right-of-way of any street, with the intent to approach any motor vehicle for the purpose of soliciting employment, business, or contribution from the driver or occupant of the motor vehicle.

****NCGS 20-175:**
No person shall stand or loiter in the main traveled portion, including the shoulders and median of any state highway or street, excluding sidewalks, or stop any motor vehicle for the purpose of soliciting employment, business, or contributions from the driver or occupant of any motor vehicle that impedes the normal movement of traffic on the public highways or streets.

*Raleigh City Code
**North Carolina General Statute





City of Raleigh Police Department

Updated Begging & Panhandling Information

April 2021

raleighnc.gov

Panhandling in Raleigh

Raleigh City Code Sec. 13-2007 states that it shall be unlawful for any person to beg or panhandle, as defined in RCC 13-2031, upon the streets or any other public property without written permission by the Chief of Police, or the Chief's designee, evidenced by obtaining a permit to conduct such activities. RCC 13-2031 sets out the rules and regulations for panhandling in the City of Raleigh.

Where and When Prohibited

All begging and panhandling is prohibited at the following locations and times. No person shall beg or panhandle between the hours of sunset and sunrise, but in no event earlier than 8 a.m. or later than 8 p.m. No person shall beg or panhandle
in a school zone while students are beginning or ending the school day.

No person shall beg or panhandle in the following areas:

- Within 20 feet of any bus stop, train station or taxi zone.
- Within 100 feet of any automated teller machine or any other machine at which money is dispensed to the public.
- Within 100 feet of the entrance to any financial institution which is open for business.
- Within 20 feet of any commercial establishment which is open for business. Within 20 feet of any duly permitted outdoor dining area during hours of operation.
- Within 20 feet of the entrance to any residence or residential building.
- Within the public right of way.

* **See back of pamphlet

No person shall beg or panhandle in the following manner:

- While under the influence of alcohol, illegal drug or prescription medication unless prescribed by a licensed physician.
- By coming within three feet of the person being approached unless that person has clearly indicated a desire to make a donation.
- By blocking the path of any person along a sidewalk or street.
- By following the person who has been asked for a donation after that person has either declined the request or walked away.
- By using profane or abusive language during the request for a donation or after a donation has been refused.
- By approaching an individual or individuals for the purpose of begging or panhandling in a group of three or more.
- By begging or panhandling in a manner which uses any statement, gesture or any other form of communication which a reasonable person would perceive as a threat.
- By using false or misleading information such as stating that the donation is needed to meet a specific need which does not exist, is already met, or the requester already possesses the funds necessary to meet the stated need. By indicating that the requester suffers from a physical or mental disability when the person making the request does not suffer from that disability.

Penalty

Violation of this section is a misdemeanor and punishable up to a $500 fine.

raleighnc.gov

Raleigh

memo

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
From	Estella D. Patterson, Chief of Police EDP
Department	Police
Date	February 4, 2022
Subject	Cameras in Public Places Inquiry by Council Member Knight

An update has been requested by Council member Knight regarding the use of cameras in public spaces.

In my professional opinion, I believe cameras serve as a force multiplier for police agencies, particularly for those facing staffing shortages. RPD has made investments in purchasing License Plate Readers (LPRs) and partnering with businesses to have access to their camera systems to provide additional security measures as needed. I would like to expand these measures by placing LPRs throughout the city.

Currently, RPD is working with Flock Safety and AXON to pilot an ALPR project in which RPD will receive 25 ALPRs for one year free of charge (except for the expenses of mounting the cameras). The project is being funded by Flock Safety and the Major Cities Chiefs Association. As part of the project, participating agencies will receive SME and IT support for each camera, cloud hosting and analytics, including LTE connectivity, unlimited licenses for users, hotlist integration and alerts, and ongoing software enhancements.

ALPR technology has been effective in reducing crime in designated hotspot locations. The cameras can be used on-site as a security tool, alerting business owners if an unauthorized vehicle has entered a business property. The technology allows for owners to create white lists for permitted vehicles and receive an alert when a non-authorized vehicle enters the property. When the system flags a vehicle, property/business owners are notified instantly, providing them the opportunity to alert authorities before they incur too much damage, or the suspect leaves the vicinity or jurisdiction. With so many empty buildings and properties, ALPR can act as a second set of eyes for areas not routinely patrolled by the police.

Aside from LPR technology, I am interested in expanding RPD's partnerships with DOT and private businesses to integrate their camera systems with the Raleigh Intelligence Center (RIC) to provide additional security at business locations, as well as residential apartment complexes, recreation centers, school, daycares, etc. I believe the benefits

provided to these locations are tremendous and helps in building relationships between police and community.

Raleigh

memo

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Estella D. Patterson, Chief of Police EDP
From	Scott Oosterhoudt, Deputy Chief of Police
Department	Police
Date	February 4, 2022
Subject	Council Response – Use of Force (Force Option Model)

This memorandum responds to a request from Councilmember Cox for information concerning Use of Force procedures for Raleigh Police Department personnel.

An officer's decision to use force is a complex one that must often be reached during circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. During these situations, officers must consider the totality of the circumstances when deciding on the appropriate level of force to use. The United States Supreme Court's opinion in *Graham v. Connor* (1989) established that force used by an officer must meet the "objective-reasonableness" standard. This standard requires that an officer's actions be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. Facts unknown to the officer, such as whether the suspect actually had a weapon, cannot be used to determine the reasonableness of the officer's action.

North Carolina General Statute §15A-401d authorizes law enforcement officers to use force on an individual when they believe it is reasonably necessary to protect themselves or a third party, effect an arrest, or to prevent the escape from custody of a person attempting to escape by means of a deadly weapon. Officers use the most effective and efficient tools and techniques available to overcome a subject's resistance to lawful commands. While doing so and deciding on a force option, officers must assess a multitude of variables such as the subject's behavior; environmental conditions; reaction time and distance; the number of subjects present; the availability of weapons; injury to the officer and physical exertion; as well as other factors.

An officer's decision to use force is dictated by the actions of the subject encountered. A force option model guides officers in their use of force decisions. Officers will not resort to a force option if a subject is compliant. Force options are resorted to when a subject's actions dictate that an officer choose from an available option. Raleigh Police Department force option model includes, but are not limited to:

- Physical Presence
- Verbal commands
- Restraining techniques
- Pepper munitions
- Striking techniques
- Less lethal (Taser)
- Deadly force

An officer's force option choice does not prohibit the officer from resorting to another option when the subject's actions dictate escalating or de-escalating force options.

Deadly force, defined as force likely to cause serious physical injury or death, may be used to defend an officer or a third party from what the officer reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force, to affect the arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person who the officer reasonable believes is attempting to escape by means of a deadly weapon, or by the subject's conduct or any other means indicates that they present an imminent threat of death or serious injury to others unless apprehended without delay. It is preferable to attempt de-escalating subjects when time and circumstances reasonably allow and persons, including the officer, are not in physical danger. If a threat continues to exist, an officer must reassess force options and choose the most efficient and effective option to stop the threat and take the subject into custody.

Raleigh

memo

To	Marchell Adams, City Manager
From	Estella Patterson, Chief of Police EDP
Thru	Todd Jordan, Deputy Chief of Police
Department	Raleigh Police Department
Date	February 11, 2022
Subject	Response to City Council (Item 8)

This memorandum serves as a response to City Council's request concerning public comments made on February 1, 2022.

A summary of the events on January 17, 2022 are as follows:

On Monday, January 17, 2022, a protest event titled "Enough is Enough" was conducted on the State Capital grounds at Morgan Street and Fayetteville Street. The group, comprised of an estimated 20-25 participants, initially marched on the sidewalks eastbound towards East Street. The group then proceeded back toward the Capital Building(westbound) toward McDowell Street. The group utilized the sidewalk to navigate the route. Once the group reached McDowell Street and Morgan Street, without any communication of intent, the group began to walk into the street on the northbound travel lanes of McDowell Street.

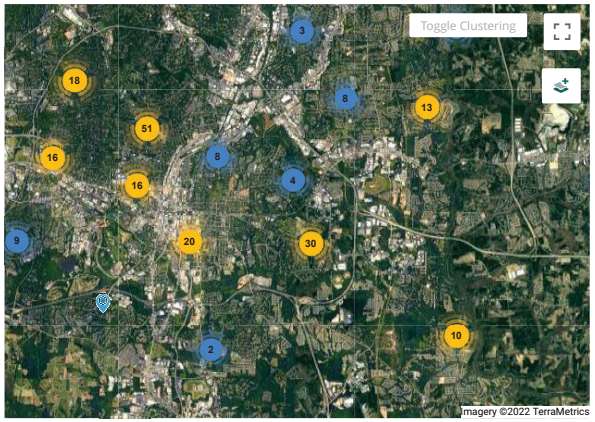
RPD officers stopped vehicular traffic and provided an alternate route of travel to avoid contact with the protestors who were in the street. Officers were able to position behind the group at McDowell Street and Hillsborough Street to provide a safety buffer from oncoming vehicles. This continued for one block (northbound), until the group reached Edenton Street. The group then turned west on Edenton Street, and police vehicles blocked traffic for the safety of motorists and protesters. The group continued to march west to St. Mary's Street, until finally turning back east to complete their march back at the State Capital Building. The group used both the roadway travel lanes and sidewalks during the march at different points. RPD personnel attempted to engage the protestors verbally by asking them to remain on the sidewalk. There was no verbal acknowledgment by the group to RPD's request. The group did eventually leave the roadway and return to the sidewalk to continue the march.

While entering intersections and travel lanes to control traffic, RPD personnel activated the siren in their police vehicles to alert motorists and pedestrians of their presence. The LRAD was not present or utilized during any portion of this event.

City Council Terms and Compensation

MOVE FILTER BY SEGMENT OPTIONS

City Council Terms and Compensation Participant Locations



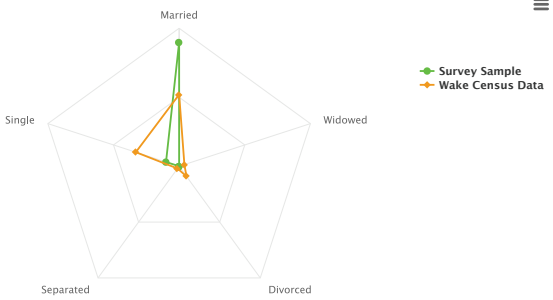
zipcode | All participants | All Time

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
5,301	1,281	7,306	286

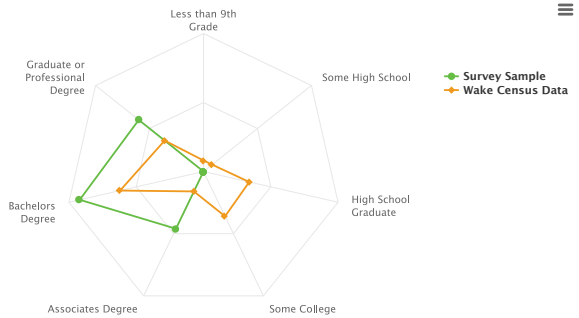
zipcode | All participants | All Time

What is your marital status?



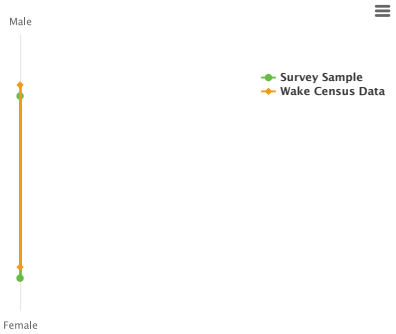
zipcode | All participants | All Time

What is your highest formal education level?



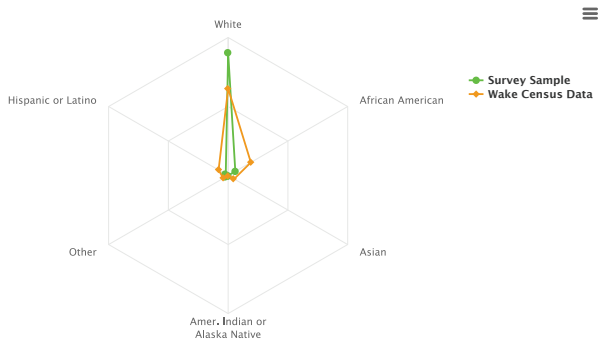
zipcode | All participants | All Time

What is your gender?



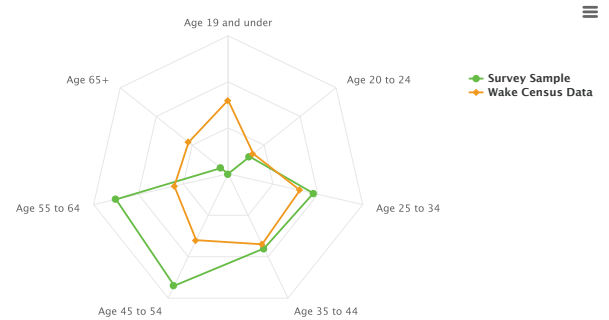
zipcode | All participants | All Time

What is your race/ethnicity?



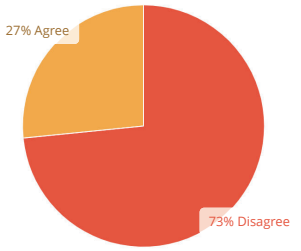
zipcode | All participants | All Time

What is your age?



zipcode | All participants | All Time

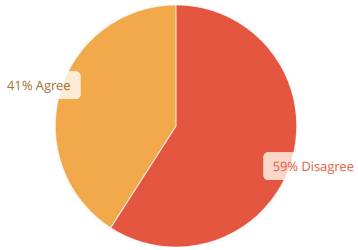
City Council should transition from two-year to four-year terms.



1,267 respondents

zipcode | All participants | All Time

City Council should adopt staggered terms whereby all district City Councilmembers are elected one side of the cycle, and the Mayor and all At-Large City Councilmembers are elected on the other side of the cycle.



1,247 respondents

I do not have any faith in the mayor or the city council. They are more aligned with big business than they are with the needs and wants of of the citizens who live in these communities.

2 months ago — 68 Agree

Agree.

They have not accounted for the money received from the federal government. I suspect fraud and this council isn't transparent.

one month ago — 4 Agree

AGREE

2 months ago

AGREE

2 months ago

Without four year terms, there is no need for staggered terms. If NC legislators can all stand for election every two years and US congress members can all stand for election every two years, so can Raleigh's mayor and council. Expanding the terms to 4 years is a simple attempt to give people time to forget about poor decisions before a councilor comes up for election and accountability. But, in the event of 4 year terms, the at-large councilor seats should be separated from each other to eliminate voting for more than one candidate.

2 months ago — 50 Agree

State legislators typically have more political experience, such as serving on a city council before, and therefore spend less time ramping up in the role. They also are typically full time and can dedicate more attention to the job. Imagine if you had to keep your full time job and learn a completely different part time job on the side. And after a year you had to also spend time campaigning and raising re-election funds. It's too much to ask from someone that should be focused on serving our city.

2 months ago — 8 Agree

Agree

2 months ago

Agree

2 months ago

You are posting this survey too late. This Mayor and Council does not involve the public until the issue has been studied in private. Composition of Council should be decided after redistricting, not before. As far as compensation, I believe you have to earn compensation for doing what you are elected for, which is representing the people of Raleigh, not making decisions without public input. This Council and mayor have not earned added compensation. They still have not taken responsibility for the riots last summer.

2 months ago — 20 Agree

AGREE.

2 months ago

AGREE.

2 months ago

I believe Raleigh would be best served by a more responsive city council. This is best accomplished by eliminating the at-large seats, which require as much money to campaign for as the mayor's office, since these are city-wide elections rather than bound by a single district. These at-large seats have become a fundraising contest with development interests far outpacing grassroots donations. In addition, these seats are proving to be unresponsive to citizens' interests since they lack ties to a specific area of the city.

2 months ago 12 Agree

It is interesting that this application (publicinput.org) offers a hybrid model for meetings, yet the council doesn't.

2 months ago 11 Agree

AGREE

2 months ago

AGREE

2 months ago

No way I want to get stuck with a horrible councilor for FOUR years! Two year terms are just fine. Let's add lots more districts, certainly more than adding just ONE more district. Council wants more citizen participation, let's do it!

2 months ago 10 Agree

Why would you require a login for this survey? That seems like an intimidation tactic to track people who you consider bothersome or loud. I agree the council term should be extended, regardless of these clowns. Will the data from this survey be publically available after its closed?

2 months ago 9 Agree

AGREE. The level of dishonesty here is staggering

2 months ago

The mayor and every council member who voted in favor of adding an extra year for themselves should abstain from running in the next election. Do it out of fairness and transparency. You can run in a subsequent election if you want, but not the first election after voting to change the election rules that favor your incumbency.

2 months ago 8 Agree

AGREE

2 months ago 1 Agree

Requiring a name and email address without a statement about confidentiality at the very least is likely limiting who responds to this survey. Please reconsider in future public outreach.

2 months ago 8 Agree

It was disappointing that you all decided to postpone your election using the redistricting as an excuse. Charlotte had the same situation and didn't postpone. The way to have gone about making this change would have been in a transparent fashion in which you explained the situation to the public and asked for input. Instead, you made this self-serving decision behind the scenes.

2 months ago 7 Agree

The number of council members should increase by more than 1 more person.

2 months ago 7 Agree

Do away with at-large positions and add up to a total of 12 seats - smaller districts give better service to public.

2 months ago 6 Agree

My faith in city council and the mayor listening to me is like me telling Santa my wish list. They abolished CAC behind closed doors and changed their term time in office behind closed doors.

2 months ago 5 Agree

Agree!!

2 months ago 1 Agree

Keep the same term length as today just add more council members by making the districts smaller in size.

2 months ago 5 Agree

No need to change the term length.

2 months ago 5 Agree

Agree

2 months ago 1 Agree

Question: "City Council should transition from two-year to four-year terms?"
Answer: Yes, it can become extremely expensive to run twice as often. Also, the four year term helps reduce the length of time to have to spend raising money for campaign. (more time for governing) I think a lot more people would vote if all seats ran at the same time and hopefully it will be the same year as the presidential campaign!

2 months ago 3 Agree

There needs to be more affordable housing for people who live here stop building expensive places that low income people can't afford to make payments on

2 months ago 3 Agree

Municipal elections should be on odd number years - otherwise these elections will be buried behind all the noise of the Federal and State elections.

2 months ago 3 Agree

Agree

2 months ago 1 Agree

Elected officials shouldn't spend 1/2 their term running for re-election. The city needs full time representatives, or at least ones that are not campaigning when they should be working.

2 months ago 3 Agree

One of my projects when hired by the City of Raleigh was having the meetings televised. Mayor Upchurch was concerned that Council members would play to the cameras. After a while few seemed to care but it did serve to unveil the There are decisions made many times a day that include elected officials across Wake County, the State of NC, DC and staff. Each position requires attention to detail and significant hours BEHIND the scenes.

2 months ago 3 Agree

This administration is so dishonest, I have no faith in nothing they say or do. In any other case, I would ask to stagger the elections but this is disturbing.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Raleigh is one of the only Triangle jurisdictions that has 2-year, unstaggered terms. It generally results in more disruption to City business, less predictability in long-term investments, and less time to implement policies between election cycles than other jurisdictions.

2 months ago 2 Agree

By staggering the election cycles, the citizens can better assess the performance of their elected officials and augment the council blend by using their district and at-large representatives conversely. Not unlike the balance of power between Congress and the Executive Branch, in a way.

2 months ago 2 Agree

I like the idea of staggered terms so the entire council is not up for election at each election. I think some continuity is good.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Four year terms are a non-starter when the real issues are: (a) Campaign finance and special interests' influence in Raleigh's municipal elections, (b) The need for districts to be carved out in ways which yield more focused representation, (c) Recognition of the fact that the At Large positions are unnecessary and should be abolished in favor for more effective localized representation, and (d) The need for significantly higher financial compensation for people serving on Raleigh's council including the mayoral position.

2 months ago 2 Agree

If council members are doing the job of representing their constituents, they will be re-elected which effectively eliminates the need for longer terms and staggered elections.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Based on decisions this council has made, mostly in private, I don't trust anything they do. With one or two exceptions, they represent their developer/doners and ignore and treat with disdain the neighborhoods in Raleigh. New businesses and people who want to relocate here do so mainly because of the quality of living, based mostly on what they see in neighborhoods, green space, trees and lack of congestion...all of which this council is bent on destroying.

2 months ago 2 Agree

City council should not have four year terms. I realize you are constantly worried about re-election and feel like you can't get anything done, but two years is enough time—a lot can happen in a year, as proven by this pandemic. The shorter terms keeps council on their toes and accountable.

2 months ago 2 Agree

David Cox has salted these polls by asking his 'LivableRaleigh' crowd on how to vote. Just fyi people.

2 months ago 2 Agree

> There is nothing wrong with a councilor sharing his opinion with the people. It is certainly better than the actions this council majority led by Baldwin have taken behind closed doors and without any public notice or public input. It is no different than councilors taking to other forms of social media like twitter and sharing their opinions on city issues. And certainly no different than the Chair of the Study Group that made these recommendations sending notification to his email groups that share his views asking them to complete the survey (yes, he did that. And, there is nothing wrong with it.)
>
> 2 months ago 4 Agree
>
> > Francisco,
> > Just because there is ONE council member who actually listens to the average voters or residents of Raleigh does not mean he has any control over how we think or why we voice our opinions. I have done my own research. I have observed how the present mayor voted while she served as a city councilor for many years. Do not assume we need others to tell us what to think. I do not approve of corruption in our government, in any form. That's why I do not approve of our current mayor and most city council members.
> >
> > 2 months ago 3 Agree
> >
> > You say salted, I say people are waking up to the corruption in our local government. Everyone has been so focused on national elections, when local elections actually make the most change. I personally have made it my mission to see most of this current council voted out, and the current mayor recalled. They used the pandemic as a carrot to extend their terms without public input, and then have the audacity to ask for longer terms and more money.
> >
> > 2 months ago 3 Agree

Two year terms should stay - and the representation should be larger to better represent and cover areas outside the beltline.

2 months ago 2 Agree

The current mayor and council seem to be interested solely in their personal interests and not at concerned with what the citizens want for our growing city. The mayor should be a full time position and compensated accordingly. We are rapidly growing and need more than a part time leader.

2 months ago 2 Agree

All councilmembers should be elected at the same time. This will better reflect how the Council as a whole is doing for its citizens.

2 months ago 2 Agree

4-year, staggered terms would be the way to go. 2 year terms are too short and force council members to focus on the election for half their term.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Two year terms allow the citizens of Raleigh to course correct when they feel this governing body is moving in the wrong direction.

one month ago 1 Agree

I side with Livable Raleigh; better to have no At-Large council members and increase the number of districts. All should be elected every 2 years, and I wouldn't want to see the Mayor's race in an off year, so it would have to happen in the same cycle.

one month ago 1 Agree

The 2 year term for City Council should stand, changing to 4 year terms will often reward bad behavior. Our Council members should look forward to sharing with their constituents what they have achieved on behalf of their District.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Please retain two-year terms for all Council members, extending to 4 years in some case rewards bad behavior. We need dedicated members who aren't afraid to face their constituents with their record of previous representation and should welcome an opportunity to show their constiuents how well they have represented their District.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Staggered terms would provide some continuity on the Council.

2 months ago 1 Agree

We need more council districts and council members to fill them. No more at large members.

2 months ago 1 Agree

We should eliminate all at-large council seats!

2 months ago 1 Agree

Two year terms are long enough particularly considering all the damage the current mayor and city council has done with minimal consideration for citizen input including the immediate disbanding of the Raleigh CACs when they came into power.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Two years are better because if the current mayor and council aren't doing a good job, they can't do too much damage. It will also keep them more responsible-if they want to keep the people's vote, they'll work hard to earn it.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Moving the election to November eliminates the possibility of a run-off. Elections without the possibility of run-offs favor incumbents.
The move to November also makes it more difficult for potential city council candidates by increasing the cost of campaigning - candidates will be forced to compete for media attention against national and statewide elections. This, too, favors incumbents.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Why go through the charade of asking for public opinion when the Council and Mayor have already demonstrated that they are part of the wave of anti-democratic power-grabbers sweeping our country? Is overwhelming public opinion going to prevent them from giving themselves four-year terms?

2 months ago 1 Agree

Like some of the others, I have no faith in the Mayor or the City Council. I would like to send all of them back home and out of power. They are too aligned with developers and any other big $$ businesses moving to this area for profit. They have repeatedly shown that they have no interest in service the Raleigh citizens.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Responding to the survey hits a raw nerve. As noted below, the damage is done. Having been involved in a rezoning issue some years ago, there was a balance of feedback for residents and developers. The citizens presented common sense objections and we prevailed. Current rules/regs limit citizen participation. Deep pockets (builders) prevail. Have you ridden around the outer areas of Raleigh? Once rolling hills of trees and wildlife existed. Now, every square inch is clear cut, more apartments (mostly) are being built, with staggering rental rates, and we all know the traffic patterns are dangerous in many places. As for compensation of council members and mayor, I cannot provide an unbiased recommendation. The current mayor and the majority of council toadies seeking lucrative contract opportunities do not deserve compensation increases. Keep compensation where it is until we have people providing measured, balanced decisions. What we have now is embarrassing.

2 months ago 1 Agree

The Mayor and City Council Members are NOT working for the people of Raleigh. We've yet to see any updates on having our CACs back on the docket, and that is where many people in my community and others were able to use their voices and stay up to date on the happenings of our city. Stop using covid as a guise to start implementing these term changes, behind closed doors convos, etc.

2 months ago 1 Agree

This whole process to me is full of conflict of interests (extending your own terms, appointing a committee to recommend you what you want). You could simply select a group of citizens at random and assign a couple experts to provide technical knowledge to the citizens, just like a judge and jury. Process you followed stink!

2 months ago 1 Agree

The transition from 2-year to 4-year terms should only be adopted if staggered terms are adopted; this avoids complete turnover and provides some continuity. The comparison of US House and NC House really don't apply as there is no equivalent upper-body that legislates on a long-term basis versus the short 2-year term.

2 months ago 1 Agree

City Council compared their compensation to places like Seattle, Portland, Las Vegas, Tulsa, and San Diego. But for their city employees, for the "market", they compare us to winston salem, greensboro, and fayetteville? wow. unfair, not equitable. very elitist.

2 months ago 1 Agree

This city council is unresponsive to its constituents. 4 year terms will make it worse.

2 months ago 1 Agree

I am definitely not a fan of stagger start. 2yrs is all it takes to get the job done.

2 months ago 1 Agree

There is a glitch in this survey. It will not let me answer both questions.

2 months ago 1 Agree

I'd like to see the regular odd year elections as they were.

2 months ago 1 Agree

I believe we should keep two year terms. I also want to eliminate all at-large districts. Raleigh is too big and at-large council districts encourage large donors and developer interest to dominate election funding as it has. I also want to increase the number of council members to 3 or 4 more to make districts smaller giving voters easier access to their representation.

2 months ago 1 Agree

No way to stagger terms and f they are 2 year terms!

2 months ago 1 Agree

Having compensation of $27,550 for the mayor of a city, and city councilors making $19,725 means that these jobs are vanity hobbies. They have to make money in other ways, and our counselors and current mayor have repeatedly shown that they favor greedy businesses over the needs of the people.

Pay the mayor and councilmembers living wages. Tired of seeing out-of-touch, rich, business people completely ignore the needs of the people they represent. But it's nearly impossible for someone working in public service job to do the job required of a mayor or council person.

Even the playing field by making these livable wages that these representatives are earning. And if they can't figure out how to live off of $50k a year (or less), maybe they'll actually be incentivized to make meaningful changes to this city that impact teachers, social workers, bus drivers, food service folks, and other vital employees that are barely surviving here.

I am beyond done with Kane Realty's luxury projects. We need solutions for real people.

2 months ago 1 Agree

MAB and most of the council are all about the money and their own agenda. She has a clear conflict of interest and this is probably one of the worst councils ever. Why in the world would we want longer terms and more pay for those interested in their own issues and not those of the citizens??? Reinstate the CAC so that “we, the people” can have some input. With the growth in the Raleigh area, we need to redistrict and add more members so the population is better served and represented

2 months ago 1 Agree

I agree with the findings of the committee tasked with coming up with recommendations related to City Council Terms and Compensation. I believe that the committee was able to discuss and come up with a unanimous consensus on these recommendations that are being outlined above. Transitioning to four-year terms would allow strategic planning to operate more smoothly, while staggering the terms would allow citizens to still express their opinions on the council every 2 years. This is a great compromise.

2 months ago 1 Agree

The survey options are terrible. Why not open-ended? Adding just one district? Maybe more, eg, 9 or 11 (mayor shouldn't vote, so odd number is needed to avoid ties). What is purpose of at-large? What other body elects some members at-large. I suspect at-large has a history in the transition to full voting rights for all citizens and is no longer relevant.

I don't have a problem with the term extension, given that some extension was necessary for reasons outside Council's control. They had then and always have 3 choices for when to hold elections:
- odd years, when only 15% of voters even show up. That allows a small minority of voters to control Council.
- spring of even years, when a hot statewide primary in one party will disproportionately bring out voters of that party and possibly sweep that party onto Council.
- Nov. of even years, when we already have 25-30 (maybe more) races on the ballot, so voters can't focus on these races.

All are serious negative aspects. I don't know which I dislike least.

2 months ago 1 Agree

I see the value of stability with staggered elections/terms. I wish congress would do the same.

2 months ago 1 Agree

By the time city councilors become familiar with their role, it's nearly time for them to work on re-election already. Longer terms mean city councilors can be more effective at their jobs. Staggered terms mean that new councilors can be mentored by existing ones rather than a large number of inexperienced councilors.

2 months ago 1 Agree

The Council should return to odd-year elections, in order to focus on local issues during at least one election cycle.

one month ago

Why have any at-large? At-large was a gimmick to stifle minority voters and prevent any minority rep on Council. We need a f/t, properly-paid mayor and 10-12 reps from individual districts.

one month ago

The NC Senate and House of Representatives, along with the Charlotte City council all have 2 year terms. I don't see true justification, or any research in the Study Group report that supports moving the Raleigh City Council to 4 year terms. Do any city councils in North Carolina currently have 4 year terms?

one month ago

Four years is too much time to put in policies that could last decades before people realize the ramifications.

one month ago

2 year terms seem adequate for other elected offices.

one month ago

Keep as is. More accountability to voters. Current odd year elections less partisan. OK to increase pay to enlarge candidate pool.

one month ago

I agree as it keeps some experience and new bright ideas on the council

one month ago

One of the first actions taken by the Mayor and this City Council members was to cut out the citizens voice and disband the CACs, The absence of citizen input and with no avenue to control what is approved in our neighborhoods, has been used by City Council to make our decisions for us and they are way off base. Houses are being built in my neighborhood thaT DON'T fit in and are in violation of our NCOD. The blatant use of the Council's "mute button" is, without a doubt, the rudest and crudest thing I have ever experienced and needs to be done away with.

one month ago

The mayor sucks. In fact, the democrat party should be banned forever.

one month ago

The person would see the overall view of the entire City.

one month ago

Elected officials should be reminded, they are elected by the people for the people. They have forgotten this!

one month ago

let's keep it simple for the people and not forget that mayor and councilmembers work together. Politicians like to complicate matters for them to keep control.

one month ago

Staggered terms are useful for continuity, but I do not agree with grouping at large and Mayor on one cycle and district council seats on the other. And since it's not clear if there will be another place to mention this - I do not agree with the shift that has been made to combining these elections with presidential/mid-term national elections. Doing so means that it will be very difficult for the candidates and for the general public to have a focused debate/dialogue about our local needs and policies in the midst of all the noise related to national topics.

one month ago

Mary-Ann Baldwin and this city council are an illegitimate city government. They do not represent the people. They represent John Kane and other sinister people. They are trash. They make their own rules without any public input. They have used this pandemic to rezone every bit of Raleigh, delay elections, rewrite election laws and seize power. Mary-Ann Baldwin is anti-democracy. She needs to go back to being a marketing clown if she wants to make more money. Worst mayor in Raleigh history.

one month ago

While compensation for part-time employees are at an all time low and part-time long term employees do not receive benefits; why should City Council members receive increased compensation?

one month ago

We should keep this as simple and easy for voters as possible.

one month ago

When it came out that the Mayor had to seek another position (with a developer) due to her low salary, I thought it was embarrassing that the Mayor of a leading city, of nearly a half-million citizens, was making just $29K. How many of her senior staff members have salaries > $100K? I'd say that the proposed increase to $49K is still far too low; what are the comps with peer cities?

one month ago

I strongly agree with Chris Widmayer's point that increased compensation for city office holders increases the candidate pool by enabling people of limited means to seek public office. The current pay scale favors people of independent means, who really don't even need the small salaries currently being paid.

one month ago

I have no faith at all in our current Mayor or city council. They changed our yard waste pickup to twice weekly and much more restrictive without any notice or call for feedback. They pander to developers and keep a mask mandate in place by constantly changing the criteria. The sooner they are all out of office, the better.

one month ago

A move to four-year terms would reduce responsiveness and accountability on the council. I can understand why some on council might prefer that, but respondents' clear preference for *more* accountability, not less, couldn't be more obvious. Let's hope you listen to that.

one month ago

Say no to pay & term increases for a council that is unaccountable.

one month ago

City Council is ruining our Raleigh landscape and being careless with all the cement. If you tear down landscape to build a new building builders not tax payers should replace the trees. Soon Raleigh is going to be the city of cement like Houston. Fire all of them and vote in environmentalist.

2 months ago

Expand the terms, but only after the election in 2024! Give people the time to understand that they're electing a government for four year.

2 months ago

Running for office every other year is a waste of time.

2 months ago

I was not able to give responses to this survey. I was required to log in, but then the questions were unavailable. Insteadd the percentage of responses were displayed.

2 months ago

Staggered terms should only be implemented if the 4-year terms are implemented. This will provided greater continuity and avoid a complete turnover of the council, which essentially results in a group starting from scratch. Comparisons to 2-year terms in the house really do not apply, since there is an upper body of legislators (senators) which overlaps the house terms. There is no upper-body in city legislation.

2 months ago

I don't believe this is a good idea!

2 months ago

With the current 2-year term, which I support, there's no need to stagger.

2 months ago

When are we voting on "should our employees receive write ups for willfully endangering others and seriously disrupting departments (no departments can be proven to be disrupted, please try) if they miss a test?"

2 months ago

Two years is too short to be effective

2 months ago

Staggering terms preserves some institutional memory

2 months ago

This is unnecessary with 2-year terms.

2 months ago

Thanks for the opportunity to complete the survey.

2 months ago

Staggered elections benefit people who are highly motivated to vote and have plenty of time to do so. The general, younger, more mobile, and especially RENTERS are overwhelmed and much less likely to vote in their own interests.

2 months ago

We do not need for politicians to extend their terms. They begin to make a living on the City Council and being Mayor the longer they are allowed to stay in their positions.

2 months ago

Less people will vote and you know that. Shame on you.

2 months ago

As a former local government employee, it is really hard when you get a lot of new elected and appointed officials in the same year. The staggered terms provide consistency and allow changes to roll over at a pace that staff can handle. It also takes 2 years for newly elected (never served) officials to really learn what they need to in order to be effective and not having to focus on campaigns one year in would be great. If people think 4 years is too long, then maybe 3?

2 months ago

Overall the current mayor and council are hell bent on destroying a nice city trying to make it Atlanta. Stop catering to out of town developers. The city is largely built out and the things those who live here value is mature trees, safe neighborhoods, space to live and breathe. The idea of at large council members is a joke, as with less than 20% voting those elected do not represent even a third of the populace.

2 months ago

Eliminate at large city council positions. Expand districted city council positions. Two year terms help to reduce corruption and helps the council to better listen to meet the needs of the actual residents of this city.

2 months ago

You can't stagger terms unless you move from 2 year to 4 year terms, or you elect half in even years half in odd year. If you did move to 4 year terms then staggering makes a lot of sense, but why make all the district elections on year and the at-large in the other? Why not divide them so that the mayor is in one cycle and the other at-large are in the other?

2 months ago

I believe staggered terms would be helpful and would support 4 year terms after the current incumbents are out of office.

2 months ago

do not agree that "all district" should be elected on one side - better to mix them with "At-Large" and then stagger the pool.

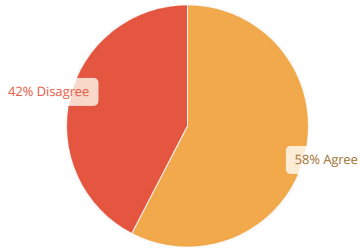
2 months ago

Don't care

2 months ago

zipcode | All participants | All Time

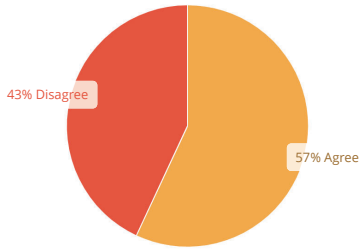
Increase total compensation for Mayor from $27,550 to $45,911



1,194 respondents

zipcode | All participants | All Time

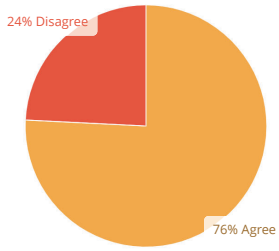
Increase total compensation for Council from $19,725 to $37,248



1,201 respondents

zipcode | All participants | All Time

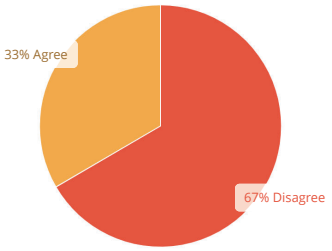
City Council should increase its size to nine by adding one district seat.



1,202 respondents

zipcode | All participants | All Time

City Council should increase its size to nine by adding an At-Large member.



1,195 respondents

I am very unhappy with our mayor and city council. Stormy Forte and Mary Ann Baldwin dismiss my email messages and do not bother to respond.

2 months ago — 44 Agree

Sickening, isn't it. When Mayor Meeker was in office, he always answered every one of my emails. That's why I really don't understand why he is supporting MAB?

2 months ago — 15 Agree

Are you attacking the Mayor or are you apart of the solution? Ijs I may not answer every negative email sent to me either.

2 months ago — 5 Agree

The Mayor and Corey Branch live in District C, Janet Jackson has done more for us lately, What have they (Mayor and Corey) done period.. (no pun intended)? And don't even expect to receive a return call or answer to an e-mail as stated previously.

one month ago — 2 Agree

The idea is to continue with "citizen council members" working out of love for Raleigh and duty to the citizenry, NOT professional politicians!!

2 months ago — 38 Agree

I don't believe the compensation being discussed would constitute a professional politician in the derogatory way insinuated. And, increasing compensation would expand the pool of citizens who could afford to run for counsel as the job SHOULD be extremely time consuming. Expanding the pool of public participation would be good for the City of Raleigh.

2 months ago — 27 Agree

well stated, Russell!!!

2 months ago — 1 Agree

Russell, Thank you for having the ability to stand and voice your opinion with integrity!

one month ago

Agree

2 months ago

It is unfortunate that after two years in office you make a half hearted long overdue request for public comment. At this point I have no trust you are interested and have not already made a decision behind closed doors.

2 months ago 29 Agree

> Matthew Smith; I whole-heartedly agree with you. Disbanding the CACs almost immediately after taking office in 2019, which did provide public input. Now, at this late date when you are kicking off your campaign for November, 2022 is disingenuous to say the least! Where was the outreach to discuss changing the election dates and rules? Why did the City Council not pay attention to the local outcry about the Downtown South project over the 9-0 vote by the Planning Commission to reject the rezoning? Even with this survey, MAB will do what she wants done. There should at least be three more districts created and eliminate the at-large positions. So much for representative government and citizen input!
>
> 2 months ago 14 Agree

Any increase to the council should be done by adding more districts not at-large seats. Adding At-Large seats does NOTHING to make it easier for more people to run for council. The cost for running for At-large seats is exponentially higher than running for a district seat. Especially with the move of elections to even years where city council elections will have to compete with BOTH statewide and federal elections. Besides, our current At-Large councilors DO NOT make any attempt to represent the city as a whole. The focus solely on downtown Raleigh and Inside the Beltline without regard for the 50% oft he population that lives outside the beltline. I fully agree the council should increase in size. But, in order to gain more diversity on the council including geographic diversity, you should increase the districts and eliminate the At-Large seats. As it stands, we currently have 4 of the 8 council members all from District C. I would suggest 10 districts and a mayor for a total council size of 11.

2 months ago 18 Agree

Raleigh doesn't need another At-Large Councilor. Arguably, the city doesn't even need two. The point of increasing the size of the Council should be to decrease the size of the districts so that Councilors are better able to respond to their constituents. I'm curious why this is even suggested and what benefit this has to offer.

2 months ago 15 Agree

> The option to ADD an At-Large seat on council should NOT have been offered in this survey as it was NOT recommended by the Study Group. This survey is supposed to be gathering input on the recommendations of the Study Group and not randomly adding more questions/options.
>
> 2 months ago 7 Agree
>
> The questions that were added are NOT Lame -- FORGET the Irrelevant study group-- there are PLENTY of people Right Here Right Now who can do better.
>
> 2 months ago 1 Agree

Here's an idea Ms. Baldwin,
Return the money you got from developers s8nceits ten times your salary. Reinstate the CAC's and resign

2 months ago 14 Agree

You are not my mayor or City Council. You disbanded CAC's, overrode Planni g Commission zoning rejections on 2 major projects, gave yourself extended terms and are dismissive to citizens. Its disgraceful & embarrassing that we have no elections while other cities around found a way. Step down. All of you. Now.

2 months ago 14 Agree

> AGREE
>
> 2 months ago 1 Agree

When the mayor and council have arbitrarily added a year to their terms without any public input, the last thing we need to see is their terms and salaries increased. Let's return to normal procedures and the type of public input which should be a given. Then we can worry about changes such as these.

2 months ago 14 Agree

> Normal procedures routinely saw 17% turnout and no viable black candidates for any seat excel tge token district C (this in a city almost 30% black).
>
> 2 months ago

We need more districts which will ensure that more people can actually know their councilor and have a voice. Grass roots leaders are the best! not just the well-financed. We need more than ONE more district added to have a real dialog about the city's future!

2 months ago 13 Agree

> Agree
>
> 2 months ago 1 Agree

The city of oaks is rapidly becoming the city of concrete and asphalt. Bad in any time or place, but unconscionable in the south with temperatures rising. We can do better! Current council and mayor not looking out for our future.

2 months ago 13 Agree

> Categorically and objectively false.
>
> 2 months ago

I would like to see 10 district council members. Our districts are way too large now since Raleigh has grown so much. I would also like to eliminate the at-large seats, which will only be filled by people with lots of money or supporters with lots of money. After seeing what this mayor and council has done, I really do not want them to have longer terms. The mayor should probably be full time. We certainly don't need another mayor with questionable ties to developers.

2 months ago 12 Agree

It would be nice to see some young people on the city council. Our city is changing daily and most of these people have long standing relationships with developers and business affiliates. This taints their ability to be neutral in the decision making process. I feel right now the only people who are happy with the current mayor/council are developers.

2 months ago 12 Agree

the lack of genuine community engagement this council and mayor have displayed is beyond pathetic. it's truly disappointing that these elected official move and behave the way they do that negatively impacts communities.They have lied countless times, they have stolen power by moving an entire election while blaming census data for their reasoning when truly the census data had nothing to do with the decision they made. This council and mayor think they can continue to use their positions to make the developer community happy and i hope enough ppl wake up to see what is happening here our city council is corrupt and they all should be voted out beside Cox. The cut CACs with no replacement while lying to the community. also online surveys are not the answer and they do not work over half a million people living in the city and yet while i'm typing it says 28 responses that shows you that this form of community engagement isn't affective but hey what do i know smh

2 months ago 11 Agree

Byron, you are so right about the census data. Every other municipality in Wake County, including Cary which also has districts was able to have timely elections.
As to the online surveys this mayor seems to love, by disbanding CACs, it effectively cut out many of the residents of Southeast Raleigh, aka, gentrification central. Historically black communities are not provided the information to provide input. While many CACs continued to function via Zoom, most of the predominately black CACs were not able to make use of that medium.

2 months ago 7 Agree

Technically the mayor wasn't elected. Charles Francis chose not to participate in a run-off, which is a shame.

2 months ago 5 Agree

The lack of community engagement that THIS COMMUNITY has displayed us beyond pathetic. Even when a mayor's race goes big-money and blankets the airwaves, IT STILL doesn't draw 20% turnout.

2 months ago 1 Agree

The city council and mayor want pay increases, while the police are paid so much less than they are in surrounding localities Wake Forest police get $10K more than Raleigh police. Take care of those that protect us before you think of yourself.

2 months ago 10 Agree

City Councilman David Cox was working for higher pay for Raleigh Police and Fire Fighters back in 2016. I think all these jobs deserve higher pay. The "Recommendations for Modernizing City Council" had lower pay than this survey though, may be a better first step - Mayor - currently $24,550 proposed $36,511
Council - currently $18,021 proposed $29,848
Push for raises for Police and Fire Dept from 2016 - https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/triangle-sandhills/news/2016/06/7/raleigh-police-and-fire-departments-call-for-higher-pay

one month ago

council must do better job with public engagement and it should start with this effort regarding changes to council structure, etc. Otherwise this is doomed to fail!!

2 months ago 10 Agree

There should be three or five new districts created and NO at-large council persons. This would provide for a more representative and diverse council responsive to its constituents.

2 months ago 8 Agree

Adding another at-large member is ridiculous. We don't need at-large members at all; let the council members represent a district and be responsive to those constituents.

2 months ago 8 Agree

The city residents need representation so we need a council with smaller sized districts therefore more district councilmembers.

2 months ago 8 Agree

Add more district seats and eliminate at-large altogether. Raleigh is becoming too large for only five districts. Councilors could be more responsive if they had fewer constituents and a smaller area to oversee. Why have at-large at all? Maybe 8-10 districts.

2 months ago 8 Agree

I agree with David Cox that additional district seats from 5 to 10 and eliminate the at large seats.

2 months ago 8 Agree

I agree.

2 months ago 1 Agree

We should increase the district seats and eliminate the at-large seats. Additionally paying a mayor $36,511 is too much. A good councillor runs to serve a City they love, not for the money. This is just slightly less than our beginning firefighters make and they risk their lives daily. Once seated, they use this position as a stepping stone to higher offer, An increase in pay is not justified.

2 months ago 8 Agree

This survey we're filling in proposes higher pay than the "Recommendations for Modernizing City Council" had, although it sounds like past time to raise the pay and Raleigh has gotten large. I am not sure where survey's compensation numbers are from, but here is recommendations from report.
Mayor - currently $24,550 proposed $36,511
Council - currently $18,021 proposed $29,848
Our Police officers and Fire Department deserve higher pay as well - https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/triangle-sandhills/news/2016/06/7/raleigh-police-and-fire-departments-call-for-higher-pay

one month ago

City Council should change its size to at least 11 so that in the future, it will be more difficult for a voting bloc of council to be in total control.

2 months ago 8 Agree

The current council has been the most damaging I have ever witnessed. From mishandling public unrest to general lack of supervision of city staff and policies to the selling out of the remaining city green space to over dense developments with lack of developer contribution to support the increased density. This crew is ruining what was a great mid size city by trying to turn it into Atlanta with its crowding, lack of space, destruction of trees and neighborhoods and a total disregard for those they serve, the people who live here today in their imposition of what they want for future residents.

2 months ago 7 Agree

I am concerned about this puff poll. I do not think the terms should be increased from 2 to 4 years - they should stay at 2 year terms so we can change out renegade council members. We need to do away with at-large council members - and instead double the number of districts from 5 to 10 to make individual council members more responsible to the people that live in their districts. And I do not favor the change to even-year elections under any circumstances because that will only drive up the cost of campaigning - I favor keeping the race in October of odd years, with a November runoff if needed. About the only way I'd favor even year races is if we had the race in March during the primary elections, and then held a runoff in November if needed.

2 months ago 7 Agree

We should decrease, not increase, at large members and have more districts. The districts are currently too large for proper representation, since they cover too large of an area with non-contiguous interests.

2 months ago 7 Agree

I've repeatedly sent courteous emails to the mayor and City Council members seeking information. No reply. It's disheartening to be ignored by people elected to supposedly represent you. I guess I shouldn't be surprised.

2 months ago 7 Agree

> Ted, I would not cut this council/mayor any slack as it relates to community engagement. They purposely eliminated one of the best vehicles for engagement - CACs - without even a plan to replace them. We had 18 CACs and have only 5 council members - odd.
>
> 2 months ago 9 Agree

I don't know why you would consider adding just one district seat -- the city has grown massively in population and geography since the current number of districts was set. Bump it up to whatever the largest number that reasonably allows you to hold meeting (11? 13? 15?). Drop the at-large members if you need to.

2 months ago 7 Agree

I suggest no at-large seats. I would make it all councilors and we need more of those to have better representation. 10 or 11 districts.

2 months ago 6 Agree

a new seat should be a district seat, all seats should be district seats.

2 months ago 6 Agree

We need smaller districts and more of them with no at large members

2 months ago 6 Agree

You need to add more than 1 district seat-do away with at large and increase the size of the board like David Cox recommended to 11 seats total.

2 months ago 6 Agree

We do not need a bigger city council - we need a more representative city council! Eliminate at-large seats and convert them to district seats. At-large council members can't possibly listen to the diverse needs of nearly 500,000 Raleigh residents. So who are they likely to listen to? Hmm... $$$

2 months ago 6 Agree

At-large districts do a dis-service to voters as at-large encourages large donors and big business and developer domination of election funding and the strong bent toward any and all development that the Council has shown. I strongly prefer smaller districts which make elected officials able to better represent sections of the city.

2 months ago 6 Agree

I believe that th City Council would better serve its citizens if the districts were reduced in size to half of the populations that each districts represents now now, doubling the number of districts, and that the number of council members would be increased to accommodate the added districts.

2 months ago 6 Agree

We have poor representation in our mayor and council. I was hoping MAB would be recalled. She seems to enjoy the power and cares nothing for citizens and small business owners. I was appalled when they abolished the CAC and extended their terms. I can't wait to see them all go. We do need better council representation. The city has outgrown the current number and should add possibly 2 more sears. And bring back the CAC.

2 months ago 6 Agree

We should increase the council size to 10 because Raleigh has grown so much and to prevent constant deadlock votes (mayor plus 10 councilors = odd number).

2 months ago 6 Agree

> We should also eliminate at-large councillors to have only district councillors.
>
> 2 months ago 7 Agree

Ask the same question when the public is invited to redistricting discussions

2 months ago 6 Agree

I think the Mayor's salary should be raised significantly and the position made full-time in order to attract a wider array of candidates. We've been fortunate to have had several mayors, such as Smedes York, Charles Meeker and Nancy McFarlane, whose financial positions allowed them to devote as much time to the office as it required (and as the city has grown, the time requirement has increased steadily). In my view, the mayor should not hold a "second job," particularly if it creates potential conflicts of interest as Mayor Baldwin's did.

2 months ago 6 Agree

> Anyone running for the money is not a candidate that does it because they love the City of Raleigh.
>
> 2 months ago 3 Agree

The city has cried broke for years when it comes to employee raises. They have not fixed the pay system of leap frogging. If any thing give them a 2% or 4% raise. Their city manager is over paid because she has not fixed the employees pay system and refuses to.

2 months ago 6 Agree

Reinstate Citizens Advisory Councils!

2 months ago 5 Agree

Increasing council by one district is not adequate. Council should be doubled and all seats should be moved to districts.

2 months ago 5 Agree

Given the amount of dissatisfaction and disagreement with how the City is being run by the current Mayor and Council, this is not the time to extend their terms. All of these recommendations and other options (such as those proposed by David Cox) need to be included in the upcoming elections so the whole of Raleigh has a voice in how we proceed. This should not take place by a vote of the Council or any other means.

2 months ago 5 Agree

We need more districts which are smaller in size for more accountability. NO at large councilors who are accountable to no one. This mayor has no regard for the average voter/resident. Just look at her record for approving rezoning requests. Look at who contributed to her campaign. Reads like a who's who of big business owners, developers, and anyone connected to development. The long time residents of Raleigh are being forced out of the homes they've lived in for many years. Do not re-elect this mayor, or other councilors with the exception of David Cox. Seriously. Also, sign petition to recall mayor.

2 months ago 5 Agree

Now is not the time for four-year terms. Now is the time to expand the number of districts to permit more accessibility and accountability. Perhaps if we do that and work at IMPROVING THE CURRENT COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITY, we could look at longer terms, but a two-year commitment to your district and city is primed for SERVICE and not PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN.

2 months ago 5 Agree

We need more outside the beltline representation seats, but not at large members. More districts.

2 months ago 5 Agree

Might be workable, but only if we implemented ranked choice voting as the current system where just two at-large members are elected with a traditional voting system already produces poor outcomes that do not reflect the desire of the electorate.

2 months ago 5 Agree

I have seen how much time and energy a good councilor puts into this job. They deserve at least the raise indicated in the survey. It may open the door for more people to serve who do not have the financial resources it takes to be an effective, well-informed councilor. It shouldn't be a job just for the rich (and most people think if you can take time from work to serve and still make a decent living, you are rich even if YOU don't think that.)

2 months ago 5 Agree

Let's get rid of all the "At Large" members and replace them with more "District Representatives". The smaller the districts the better the representation of the citizens in Raleigh.

one month ago 4 Agree

In a city the size of Raleigh there should be more than the proposed nine members determining the future and direction of its citizens, thus increasing the likelihood of a more personal relationship with the council members and giving each citizen easier access for input.

2 months ago 4 Agree

The position of city manager needs to be an elected position.

2 months ago 4 Agree

How come there is no comment section for the money increases? I may support it if i knew how much has changed. Ie more work? Is this a part time or full time job... also direct care workets desperately need raises. Aka more funding in all areas. With the cost of living going ip we are being forced from our jobs because we cant pay the bills. Who do i contact about this?

2 months ago 4 Agree

> Why should Raleigh mayor be paid almost as much as full time beginning firefighters. One running for City Council should do it for the love of their city and NOT MONEY. The mayor is already overpaid.
>
> 2 months ago 2 Agree

Responding to the survey hits a raw nerve. As noted below, the damage is done. Having been involved in a rezoning issue some years ago, there was a balance of feedback for residents and developers. The citizens presented common sense objections and we prevailed. Current rules/regs limit citizen participation. Deep pockets (builders) prevail. Have you ridden around the outer areas of Raleigh? Once rolling hills of trees and wildlife existed. Now, every square inch is clear cut, more apartments (mostly) are being built, with staggering rental rates, and we all know the traffic patterns are dangerous in many places. As for compensation of council members and mayor, I cannot provide an unbiased recommendation. The current mayor and the majority of council toadies seeking lucrative contract opportunities do not deserve compensation increases. Keep compensation where it is until we have people providing measured, balanced decisions. What we have now is embarrassing.

2 months ago 3 Agree

Instead of adding money to the city council and mayor, who so far have managed to ruin the City, how about taking the time to research how horribly underpaid firefighters, police and EMS are? You know. The ones who work 80+ hours a week, miss holidays and birthdays, are in danger most calls they run and work 2+ jobs. But as Baldwin told one firefighter who asked if she would raise pay, "if you aren't happy working here, work somewhere else," right?

2 months ago 3 Agree

> That is a disgusting reply from the mayor.
>
> 2 months ago 1 Agree

The priorities of the City of Raleigh should be focused on improving the lives of its citizens. Roads are still a mess, and our taxes are supposed to pay for infrastructure. Housing prices have increased exponentially, but no real progress has been made on providing affordable housing for all citizens. If we do not do something about affordable housing, we will have an even larger homeless population after people are priced out of living accommodations. Also, something needs to be done about our current homeless population. It is easy to ignore those things that really need to be focused on and instead focus on building new arenas, parks and other expensive projects, but we must first focus on making Raleigh a place where everyone can live safely and comfortably. When that has been accomplished, then we can look at those other things that will make Raleigh even better.

2 months ago 3 Agree

Increase size of council to support growth and diversity in Raleigh.

2 months ago 3 Agree

Increased compensation is absolutely necessary to support these citizens who are taking time away from family and employment to govern and increasingly complex city. This has nothing to do with professional political ambitions. If you are concerned with that, allow them to govern from 4 years but cannot be reelected concurrently.

2 months ago 3 Agree

where is the submit button??????

2 months ago 3 Agree

I voted to disagree with the raises. I think they need raises. I agree that mayor should be full-time and get an appropriate salary. I voted to disagree with the changes to Council composition because the choices were inadequate. If we vote to support the proposed bad choices, those who rigged the choices will use our votes as evidence that these options were acceptable. They are not.

This exercise reminds me of having been on 2 City task forces 15+/- years ago. We were supposedly making decisions on what became curbside recycling and what became the downtown parking metered parking system. In each case, it became clear that the City Manager had a plan and didn't want our suggestions how to improve it. He just wanted to be able to say that we had approved his proposals. They were good enough, but we could have improved then had we been allowed to.

2 months ago 3 Agree

I'm fairly new to Raleigh and do not have a good working knowledge of how things are run here(ex. Didn't know the mayor was a part time position). But I've read the comments and there are some good thoughts, ideas, opinions stated. I hope that those in charge are actually reading them and considering what y'all have said.

2 months ago 3 Agree

> Judith Mitchell, the mayor may read them but will do what SHE believes should be done to further her agenda of catering to developers, not the citizens to whom she is supposed to be accountable.
>
> 2 months ago 11 Agree
>
> Raleigh has a City Manager form of government. The City Manager actually runs the city and controls the staff. The mayor is more like the CEO of the Council which acts like a board of directors to set the direction for policy. But, it is the JOB of the City Manager and Staff to implement the policy. If you want a full-time mayor, then we have no need for a City Manager.
>
> 2 months ago 9 Agree
>
> AGREE
>
> 2 months ago 1 Agree

Our city council and mayor are working more than part time. I am in favor of a salary increase if their workload cannot be trimmed down. However, this increase will still mean that only people who have another source of income can serve in these roles.

2 months ago 3 Agree

These jobs should be over $50k so that normal citizens can run for them and make a living doing them. Not just wealthy elite people who don't need a salary.

2 months ago 3 Agree

Eliminate the two at-large council seats and add two more district seats

one month ago 2 Agree

All at large seats should be converted to district seats. Districts should be smaller and more cohesive.

one month ago 2 Agree

I wonder how much overtime pay was invested in city employees monitoring the CACs? Only for the program to be canceled without notice to community volunteers and leaders, who invested time and energy to assist with improving communities.

one month ago 2 Agree

If city council members get such a large pay increase, so should all other city employees.

one month ago 2 Agree

Need to eliminate the 2 At-Large seats, and go to 8 District Seats and a Mayor, making 9 total Council Members.

one month ago 2 Agree

Would prefer to add more districts as opposed to an at-large member. Do not oppose increasing the size

2 months ago 2 Agree

Our City is growing and changing so our City Council should as well.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Give cost of living wages to employees who truly work for Raleigh's citizens

2 months ago 2 Agree

The expectations of time commitment by council members has grown significantly to the point that in order to serve, one needs to either have an employer that allows great flexibility, be retired, or own a business that allows them to be away often. Council work has become far more demanding and complex. With better compensation, we may see more diverse representation and interest in serving.

2 months ago 2 Agree

City council has a similar issue to the state legislature. The time commitment required at this point makes it very difficult to serve unless you have a full-time job with a large amount of flexibility in terms of time and presence, are retired, or are a business owner who can take time away. The expectations of council members in terms of hours, visibility and engagement has grown significantly, while the "compensation" is minimal, given a city of our size. Change is needed, and it will ultimately allow for more diverse representation.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Ban anyone with active interests in real estate development from joining the city council as it's a conflict of interest

2 months ago 2 Agree

Adding an at-large seat instead of a district seat would better balance the council between the 5 members who run in districts and the 4 members (including the mayor) who represent the city as a whole. Adding a district seat would further exacerbate the current imbalance and it is not a good idea.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Each council member should be able to hire an individual to perform policy analysis and financial impact. Too often plans are proposed without regard to policy or financial considerations. The mayor needs a staff of 2-4 people to effectively carry out the position. If the Council remains part-time than they would be better served with direct staff assistance. These employees should not be under the management of the City Manager. The city of Kansas City, Missouri has a council set up in this manner.

2 months ago 2 Agree

I checked Agree, however six districts is not enough to adequately represent all of Raleigh's resides

2 months ago 2 Agree

Except for the normal cost of living raise that is normally granted, I do not support a raise for City Council. I would prefer that the positions be converted to full time with commensurate salaries. We need more and better services than we are getting now. I do not support any At- Large seats and feel that the number of districts be increased to ten to better represent all residents.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Expansion will allow for fresh thinkers.

2 months ago 2 Agree

There has been so much unrest it's impossible to get attention to long term problems. My neighbor is raising chickens and driving me crazy. All agree the rules need to be revisited. But there's no bandwidth for that with the heavy development and constant conflict. The environment is taking a beating. The answer always seems to be 'deal with it' we are busy with big problems.

2 months ago 2 Agree

You guys don't know anything about the people of this city.

2 months ago 2 Agree

The mayor and council need a raise! The amount of work involved, and when comparing it to peer cities, a raise is definitely needed. Increase compensation also allows for low- and moderate-income citizens to be more able to be on council. I also believe that an additional district seat should be added to allow for each district member to represent less people.

2 months ago 2 Agree

> Completely prior to the question of whether the mayor&council need a raise is thevwuestion if whether these should ir shouldn't be FULL-TIME jobs! The mayor just had to quit her day job!

2 months ago 2 Agree

The argument that increasing compensation for mayor and city council would make it more affordable for more people to run for office seems reasonable on the surface but isn't realistic at these compensation levels. Ordinary people aren't going to get elected in a city anyway where special interest money controls both elections and politicians. I'm not seeing a lot of need for extra compensation given the wealth level of people who get elected.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Increase pay but leave it to 2 year terms. If they don't do the job. Change them.

2 months ago 2 Agree

4 year terms would add stability - staggering at large vs. district would give incremental ability for voters to voice their opinion every two years without complete disruption at the council every two years.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Is there another city this size in the country that does not employ full time representation at least as Mayor? How can we complain about them always doing studies when realistically they do not have time to do it themselves as they are earning a living somewhere else. This isn't a D or R problem, it's a what we can expect from them realistically.

2 months ago 2 Agree

I like the idea of an at-large member who can evaluate the needs of the city as a whole. The seat would also not be subject to the vagaries of redistricting.

2 months ago 2 Agree

Well said Chris. If additional compensation would expand pool of those willing to do this job then great as certainly at 18k or 30k you are not doing it for the money.

2 months ago 2 Agree

I find it troublesome that proposed compensation for the person elected to lead a city of almost half a million people is on par with entry level sales reps and chain franchise managers. I'd argue we should further double that figure to at least $90,000. Leading our city requires full-time commitment, and it should be compensated as such.

one month ago 1 Agree

The mayor and the council absolutely do NOT answer to the people of this city, and increasing their "compensation" is an affront. Doubling the councilmens' pay, seriously? They eliminated the CACs somthey wouldn't have to hear from us and could focus on what the developers and urban-density proponents demand. Corrupt and inept, the whole lot should step down.

one month ago 1 Agree

Get rid of At-Large members. If you need more members make more districts.

one month ago 1 Agree

I want citizens to consider potential long-term benefits of the proposed changes. Raleigh is no longer a sleepy borough, as it was in 1973. Council members who hold down jobs in addition to serving on the Council have to rely (perhaps too much) on staff advice and do not have the time to respond directly to all constituents.

They are not representing a relatively smaller number of residents. Communication takes longer or is more restricted the larger their constituency becomes.

Thus, I favor adding at least one, or preferably 2 members. Add One member from a new district and one more member at-large.

Objecting to change as a way to attack the current Mayor and Council will not help us. Vote them out, if you so choose. But, please think long-term about changes to the City Charter and adequate compensation and effective representation.

one month ago 1 Agree

I'm disappointed that the CAC was eliminated without publication, bicycle lanes everywhere…buses pretty much ride in both lanes on Person Street …especially near Shaw University. Where would the increases in salaries come from? My taxes have increased significantly and I just don't understand where/how my money is being used.

one month ago 1 Agree

There is not enough information being provided to really provide any meaningful response to these last two questions regarding districts. I think it's a bit manipulative to ask these questions of the public without any context as to the current situation and why additional districts might be being discussed and 'proposed'. Generally speaking I am not in favor of additional 'at large' members as it is a growing city and if anything we need more direct representation within reasonably sized districts that facilitate connection to our representatives and to our city government. Additionally increasing the size of the council to ensure better representation needs to be balanced against the practical issues related to the management and functioning of a larger body.

one month ago 1 Agree

The current number of at-large members is sufficient to support a broad perspective during planning and discussions. At large candidacies are more susceptible to special interest funding, giving an undue advantage to candidates with well funded special interest backers.

one month ago 1 Agree

Currently all but one council member resides inside the belt line. As forty percent of the city's population lives outside the belt line two or three council seats should be completely outside the belt line and there should be no at-large council seats.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Compensation- I guess it is fair that they get an increase but that's a huge jump! Almost 100% Better for districts to be represented.

2 months ago 1 Agree

I cannot believe the low pay that the Mayor and City Councilmen receive. I have nothing negative to say about the Mayor or Councilmen.

2 months ago 1 Agree

The at large could break a dead-lock and vote for the best. For the city overall.

2 months ago 1 Agree

Another member to spread the responsibility for listening and engaging is a good idea. Council members through them have had very different ideas about their responsibility to engage. Most were as noted below 'citizen' councilors- this was all set up as a part time advisory gig, and over the years Raleigh ,m and the job, has grown. I do give the current council some leeway engagement wise- it has been a tough two years with the pandemic disrupting all of our traditional avenues for communication and gathering. Hopefully we can return to some measure of in person engagement soon.

2 months ago 1 Agree

> The most traditional avenue for engagement was the CACs and this council disrupted those all on their own by eliminating them as one of the first actions they took. And, they did it in secret, with no public notice and no public comment.
>
> one month ago 12 Agree

The salaries definitely need to be increased. The mayor of Raleigh is not a part time position and right now the only people who can accept this job are people who are independently wealthy. That's a problem in my opinion.

2 months ago 1 Agree

The additional council member's district should encompass the inner belt line. The current districts will then begin at the belt line border and all of those council members should then reside outside of the inner belt line, downtown area. This leaves only one council member actually representing downtown rather than the current eight who live downtown.

2 months ago 1 Agree

I think the mayor and council have done a good job during a very difficult time. I realize that you have no legal recourse to not approve resining request as long as all legal requirements have been meet. Raleigh has received many rewards and people and businesses want to relocate here. Those who want Raleigh to remain a less dense City are not following the desire of the majority.
The mayor should have a raise to what is recommended and the council a raise but not as much as recommended.

2 months ago 1 Agree

> We may have to agree to disagree. Even before Baldwin was mayor, she (or her office) never responded to any emails or phone calls I made as a constituent. There are still boarded up windows downtown from the riots.
>
> I'm not sure how you know the desire of the majority, but even if you are correct, those who have lived here and built Raleigh up to be a desirable place are now being displaced. There's a 95-year-old resident in our neighborhood who had to do battle with a developer who built two huge houses next to her home after a tear down. The builder's attorney told her if she kept complaining, the builder would build three instead of two. She was afraid that the run-off would ruin her home and rightly so, given the rules currently in place. She eventually gave up the fight. Why battle a city who values the taxes on those two huge houses over someone who has lived here decades? Raleigh used to care more about her citizens than that. Now it's all about increasing the tax base...
>
> Growth is inevitable, but it doesn't have to be inequitable.
>
> 2 months ago 18 Agree

> Raleigh Mayor Baldwin and her City Council Majority do not have to approve re-zonings any more than the Planning Commission does. So what explains their overruling the planning commission and citizen input numerous times when making rezoning decisions? The fact is that this city council doesn't value longtime citizens who built Raleigh into the desirable city it is. So we now have a mayor and council majority that care only about wealthy newcomers. Talk about being knifed in the back. Let's recall Mayor Baldwin and eliminate all at-large seats on council, who don't represent anyone but big business and the mayor's cronies!
>
> 2 months ago 16 Agree

> Totally agree. Rezoning is one of the biggest causes of gentrification.
>
> 2 months ago 15 Agree

> The council is NOT legally required to approve any rezoning case no matter if it does or does not meet legal requirements. It is misinformation like this that allows this council to get away with what they get away with. A rezoning application is a request from a property owner for INCREASED entitlements on their land above what they currently are entitled to. It is basically asking the city to INCREASE the value of their land. There should be some community benefit returned by the land owner for that increase in value. There is NO legal requirement that stops any member of the City Council from responding to a rezoning application by replying that they do not see enough community benefit being offered by the land owner to justify the increase in entitlement (dollar value) that the applicant is requesting.
>
> 2 months ago 9 Agree

Your survey does not address the glaring problem of this report that it fails to ask if citizens want their officials elected by pluralities rather than majority. I DO NOT! I want officials elected by majority which you (Council) eliminated when moving our elections from 11/2021 to 11/2022, while eliminating run-offs. And this report did not address that. PLEASE FIX THAT!

one month ago

Compensation presented in the live listening group was about 29k for council and 35 or 36k for mayor. I agree with that increase. However, this survey seems to have added 10k to both. Why the difference?

one month ago

I believe that more than one district seat should be added to expand council representation and accessibility.

one month ago

I agree for increase pay, but the proposed increases are approximately a 65% increase for the mayor & almost 90% for City Council members. I did not read an explanation for that large of a percentage increase for me to vote "Agree." Raleigh gov is behind in salary compensation compared to neighboring NC cities, but that increase is difficult to approve because of the financial stress experienced by underpaid, full-time & part-time, Raleigh gov staff.

one month ago

I seem to be in the minority.

one month ago

I agree with all that is proposed, but I'd like to know the approch that the City Council has for Raleigh's development. There is a huge expansión of the City, which does not seem properly planned. There is an increasing number of beggar all over the City and in my opinion we should carefully examine and evalúate why there are so many beggars and what is the root of the problem. I have the impression that many beggars do this activity because it's the easy way out. In summary, there are more questions than answers.

one month ago

You guys don't know anything about the people of this city. You only care about your miserable downtown which you have spent 20 pumping money into to no success.

one month ago

Being a Mayor means you serve the people. Answering emails is the least you can do.

one month ago

Add a permanent seat as city has grown.

one month ago

A higher pay means that filing fees will go from $200 to $400. That will limit who can run. These people are not hurting for cash.

one month ago

Only if inside and around 440 could be better represented to pay closer attention to businesses. The City Barbeque on Lake Boone Trail is a disaster. The smell from their grills or smoke stacks permeates around and inside my home. It is a health hazard. Also the city needs more police to stop speeders and careless drivers around Lake Boone Trail.

2 months ago

City Council should up its size to reflect the explosive growth Raleigh has experienced. Just adding one seat is insufficient to provide a proper voice. Also Downtown should be made into its own district

2 months ago

One last comment, I also understand that you're moving the way they're you're moving in order to avoid the pitfalls of beneficial projects being delayed or completely derailed because people are afraid to grow. However there has to be a better way to communicate and make the community feel involved in how the city is progressing. Totally ignoring the city can be just as ineffective as involving citizens in every little decision because then you position yourself to not continue your work.

2 months ago

This survey is tough. I'm not entirely pleased with how Mayor Baldwin and this Council has gone about effecting change - not communicating with the public, doing things in secret and making decisions that will serve their interests once they leave office. All of that is very clear. But there have also been some good, progressive decisions made that is propelling Raleigh forward. If this Mayor and Council stays in office to continue their work, I'd like to see more transparency. I understand it can be difficult to move forward waiting for consensus from all parties, but at least make your intentions clear and hear valid concerns that may arise from your citizens.

2 months ago

At large makes sense.

2 months ago

Raleigh city council has not been transparent so while I do agree they should earn more, I do not agree that we should add another at large position

2 months ago

We do not need more politicians in our lives.

2 months ago

Maybe add an additional at-large member or district seat so we have uneven number of people on council

2 months ago

At large members are not representative. All seats should be district seats.

2 months ago 5 Agree

I would like to see the number of city districts doubled so that there would be 10 district members on the council. I feel that my district is too large for 1 person to adequately represent all the people in it. And I would like to see the position of At-Large member removed.

2 months ago

I am very unhappy with how the city is rezoning everything. They are not protecting the watershed which is vital to our getting enough clean drinking water. They are letting developers build wherever they want without thinking of the long term consequences such as - future water shortages (like some states are already experiencing), traffic, noise, congestion, school overcrowding, road improvements, and many other things that directly effect our quality of life living in Raleigh. Please rethink all of the rezoning applications carefully. I love this city and do not want it to turn into another Atlanta.

2 months ago

Causes more confusion and disagreements adding additional members which in the end "less gets done that really matters".

2 months ago

Add more than one district seat. ELIMINATE at large seats. Reduce corruption and make council more responsive to its residents.

2 months ago

We need 10 districts, elected in odd years. At large seats are a waste.

2 months ago

Adding a district member, rather than an at-large member can better represent Raleigh's growing diversity. At-large districts generally disadvantage minority voters and dilute their voting strength on the overall board or council. Adding a new district seat could increase representation of minority voters on the council.

2 months ago

thanks for the opportunity voice an opinion about changing the terms and elections of city council.

2 months ago

Mary Ann Baldwin is a disgrace. I was appalled that she was touting her efforts on increasing affordable housing when she was interviewed at the Xmas Parade. She has done nothing but accelerate gentrification and the unsustainable increases in property values.

2 months ago

We NEED an increase in part time pay before we consider upping the salaries of City Council. We are not competitive in this workforce when a majority of our part time positions are paying less than $10/hour. Full Time staff are burning out left and right trying to cover the gaps 7 days a week. Please implement part time raises WHILE initiating the part time pay study that was supposed to happen years ago.

2 months ago

There is not a comment section for the compensation questions, so I'll put it here. Elected officials should not receive any increase until you have done a full pay study and adjusted pay rates for all part time staff in the city. Hiring has come to a halt due to horrible wages for all part time positions. Fix your problems and show you deserve the raise before asking for more as elected officials.

2 months ago

I cannot recommend pay raises after the downtown businesses suffered damages last year due to zero protection by the city officials.

2 months ago

NO NO NO to all. If you are "public servants" and doing this for us, why would you deserve an increase? You knew what you were signing up for so live with it, or do you waste your money like you do ours!!!

2 months ago

A more modest salary increase would be acceptable. A near 50% increases to the salary is not reasonable. I would be alright with a 5-10% increase for those positions.

2 months ago