



How a Chicago *city charter process* would work

A step-by-step timeline from state authorization to a vote of the people.



1

Today

The General Assembly passes the charter-enabling law (House Bill 5282).



2

November 2028 general election

Voters elect 10 nonpartisan charter commissioners, one per school board district. Commissioners then appoint an 11th member as chair.¹



3

Within 60 days of the first meeting (approximately February 2029)

The commission adopts an Initial Scope Resolution setting its topics, staffing needs and public-input process.



4

2029–2030

Drafting and public hearings, with 10 days' notice for each and Open Meetings Act rules. The commission writes the ballot question and voter-guide summary and approves them by majority vote.



5

November 2030 general election

Voters approve or reject the charter as a single ballot question by simple majority. The question doesn't count against the three-question limit.



6

Ongoing

Every 10 years, voters are automatically asked whether to convene a new commission. Citizens can also force that question by petition, with signatures equal to 8% of the city's votes for governor. Any charter amendment requires voter approval at a general election.

¹ Commission candidates must collect at least 500 signatures in their school board district in order to appear on the ballot.