



# *Sensible* **PAYFORSA**

The goal of **Sensible Pay for SA** is to amend the City of San Antonio's Charter to provide annual salaries for City Council members and the mayor - without raising taxes or increasing the city budget.

## Here are five reasons why you should vote yes for Charter Amendment 2 on May 9, 2015:

- 1.** Under the current City Charter, councilmembers are paid \$20 per meeting with a maximum of \$1,040 per year and the mayor is paid an additional stipend of \$3,000. Charter Amendment 2 would provide City Council members with an annual salary of \$45,722 - equal to the San Antonio area median household income - and the mayor an annual salary of \$61,725.
- 2.** No new tax dollars will be needed to pay the salaries provided by Charter Amendment 2. The salaries will come from the existing City Council budget.
- 3.** San Antonio's City Charter was approved in 1951 when the City Council served as a part-time governmental body. Since then, San Antonio has tripled in size and the issues and demands on city government have required increasingly more time from the City Council and the mayor. The Charter should be updated to compensate them for their service to the city. .
- 4.** San Antonio is the only major city in Texas without a reasonable pay structure for its City Council. Charter Amendment 2 would establish a salary that is still below Houston, Dallas and Austin, which pay their City Council members up to \$70,000 annually.
- 5.** The mayor and City Council work full-time on behalf of the people of San Antonio. Providing them with a salary is the right thing to do to compensate them for a full-time job and ensure that talented, qualified people continue to seek public office.





## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much do we pay City Council and the mayor now?**

\$20 per meeting, capped at \$1,040 annually, for members of the San Antonio City Council. The mayor receives an additional stipend of \$3,000 annually. These amounts were set in the City Charter of 1951 when San Antonio had fewer than 500,000 residents. Today it has close to 1.5 million.

### **What salaries does Charter Amendment 2 propose for councilmembers and the mayor?**

Councilmembers would receive a salary equal to the median income in San Antonio, \$45,722. The mayor would receive \$61,725. Councilmembers will also be able to choose not to accept the salary if Charter Amendment 2 passes.

### **What do other major Texas cities pay their councilmembers and mayor?**

Austin Council — \$69,885	Austin Mayor — \$81,344
Dallas Council — \$60,000	Dallas Mayor — \$80,000
Houston Council — \$62,408	Houston Mayor — \$234,031

### **Are other local elected officials paid salaries?**

Bexar County Commissioners receive \$107,862 per year - more than twice as much as the proposed salary for councilmembers - and the Bexar County judge's salary is \$126,219 per year.

### **Will a tax increase or an increase in the city budget be needed to pay the salaries proposed in Charter Amendment 2?**

No. The funds for these salaries will come out of the existing City Council budget.

