

Legislation Text

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Providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter revising the powers and duties of the Art Commission to require the Commission to prepare an analysis justifying any removal or relocation of a City statue or monument whenever there is controversy or public dispute, and to oversee a public referendum process prior to any such removal or relocation; and providing for the submission of the proposed amendment to the electors of Philadelphia; and authorizing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. There shall be submitted for the approval or disapproval of the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia at the election to be held on May __ 2021, the amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter contained in Resolution No. 200493 approved by Council on _____, 2020, and filed in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

SECTION 2. There shall be placed on the ballot the following question to be answered “Yes” or “No” by the qualified electors participating in the election:

Shall the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to require an analysis be conducted by the Art Commission, and submitted for a vote of approval by public referendum before any City statue or monument be removed or relocated when this is a subject of public controversy and dispute?

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to (i) certify to the Board of Elections, within five days of this Ordinance becoming law, a copy of this Ordinance and Resolution No. 200493; and (ii) to have printed in pamphlet form, in sufficient number for general distribution, the proposed amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter as set forth in Resolution No. 200493 together with the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to cause to be published one time, during the three (3) weeks preceding the election on May ____ 2021 in three (3) newspapers of general circulation in the City and in The Legal Intelligencer, the proposed amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, together with the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance; and further, at such other time and in such other manner as the Clerk may consider desirable.

SECTION 5. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to issue a proclamation giving at least thirty (30) days’ notice of such election. The Clerk of Council shall cause a copy of the proclamation to be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the City, and in The Legal Intelligencer, once a week for three consecutive weeks during the period of thirty days prior to the election. One such publication may be combined with the publication of the notice required by Section 4 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. The appropriate officers are authorized and directed to take such action as may be required for the holding of an election on the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance as provided for by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.