



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

17 JUL 28 PM 2:09

RECEIVED
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman John Courage, District 9
COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Residency Verification in Municipal Elections
DATE: July 28, 2017

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Discussion requiring proof of residency documentation of candidates seeking municipal office in order to further demonstrate they meet the residency requirements as outlined by the City's Charter in Article II, Section 4. I propose the City Clerk's office explore the possibility of requiring supplemental residency verification in the form of utility bills, or other appropriate documentation, for the 6 months leading up to the filing date for City of San Antonio municipal candidates.

Brief Background

The City's Charter outlines the basic residency requirements for a candidate to run for municipal office in Article II, Section 4:

Each member from a district or ward shall reside within its boundaries at least six (6) months prior to filing his application for election and continuing during his or her term of office, and failure to do so shall render such office vacant.

In the past, the district courts have been responsible for residency disputes in the City's municipal elections. If the City Clerk's office required utility bills, or any other form of documentation deemed appropriate, for the address listed on the candidate's application from the 6 months leading up to the filing date, it would provide a substantial amount of assurance that the candidate in question resided in the district. Citizens would get the transparency they deserve, and campaigns would no longer have to weigh the cost of a lawsuit to prove something that the City should be able to certify itself.



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Our municipal election process in San Antonio should be held to the highest standard. I ask the City Clerk's office to explore the possibility of requiring supplemental residency verification for the 6 months leading up to the filing date for San Antonio municipal candidates in order to greatly benefit the transparency of our electoral process.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

John Courage

Councilman John Courage, District 9

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

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