

CITY OF HUDSON, OHIO

2025 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

City Council Special Workshop

July 22, 2025

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

AGENDA

- **Hudson's Charter**
- **Charter Section 13.02**
- **CRC Members**
- **By the Numbers**
- **Process**
- **Suggestions not included in Recommendations**
- **Recommendations**
- **Ordinance Next Steps**
- **Questions**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

HUDSON'S CHARTER

- **Your local "constitution," enabled by State law**
- **Allows a municipality to “set its own course”**
- **1958 (Charter first effective – approved by Village voters)**
- **Since 1995, amendments have occurred every five years, and in 2009.**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

CHARTER SECTION 13.02

- **Mandatory review every 5 years**
- **Council appoints Commission**
- **Odd number of members between 7 and 11**
- **Serve until date of next general election**
- **Recommends revisions and amendments that "in its judgment seem advisable"**
- **Council "...shall submit same to the electors at the next general election..."**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

CRC MEMBERS

Cheri Pagni-Griffith

Gregory Hall

Jon Hoover

Robert Kagler

Chelsea McCoy

Sarah Norman

Michael Ryan

Jennifer Spitalieri

Scott Trainor

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BY THE NUMBERS

- **11 meetings (January through June)**
- **21 hours and 42 minutes (total meeting time)**
- **2 public comment opportunities at every meeting**
- **15 persons commented at meetings**
- **Suggestions accepted through April 30**
- **71 suggestions received**
- **Residents, appointed officials, elected officials, CRC, and outside entities submitted suggestions**
- **Tracked all suggestions and CRC responses/actions**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

PROCESS

- **Read entire charter (out loud; every section)**
- **Reviewed and discussed ALL suggestions**
- **Proposed changes**
- **Requested text to be drafted by Solicitor**
- **Reviewed, revised, finalized, and approved drafted changes**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

SUGGESTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Ranked choice voting**
- **Council operational/rule/policy requirements**
- **Additional/modified Mayoral duties**
- **Enhanced censure/removal requirements**
- **Income tax rate/credit limitation changes**
- **Changing Solicitor from appointed to elected**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Eight proposals (ballot issues)**
- **One “general administrative changes” ballot issue**
- **Seven ballot issues deemed worthy of being voted on separately, for reasons including but not limited to increased interest and/or potential controversy**
- **All but one proposal approved unanimously**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUES

- #1: General administrative changes**
- #2: Establish term limits for elected city officials**
- #3: Clarify term limits for appointed members of city boards and commissions**
- #4: Change the threshold to initiate a recall**
- #5: Change City Council salary to meet the state's minimum retirement credit threshold**
- #6: Establish the Military and Veterans' Commission**
- #7: Establish the Park and Natural Resource Board**
- #8: Enact expenditure accountability for tax levies benefitting other public and private entities**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #1:

General administrative changes

Ordinance pages 1-11 | Ordinance sections 1-2

Charter preamble + sections 2.01, 3.01, 3.02, 3.08, 3.11, 4.01, 4.03, 5.02, 6.03, 6.04, 7.01, 12.01, and 12.02

What does it do:

- Modifies preamble
- Changes “voters” to “electors” throughout charter
- Revises elected official term commencement provisions
- Removes various requirements for newspaper notices
- Provides for appointment/removal of Acting Finance Director
- Clarifies purchasing requirements
- Designates Clerk of Council as recipient of various petitions

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #2:

Establish term limits for elected city officials

Ordinance pages 11 and 12 | Ordinance sections 3-4 | Charter Sections 4.01 + 7.05 [NEW]

What does it do:

- Sets three full four-year term or 12-year (whichever is greater) limit
- Limits length of service as elected officer of the Municipality
- Enacts cumulative limit regardless of elected office
- Applies to Mayor and Council (At Large and Ward)

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #3:

**Clarify term limits for appointed members of city
boards and commissions**

Ordinance pages 12-17 | Ordinance sections 5-6

Charter sections 8.04, 8.06, 8.07, 9.01, 9.04, 9.06, 11.01

What does it do:

- **Closes loopholes and removes ambiguities in current limits**
- **Removes “consecutive” from factoring into limit**
- **Sets three full four-year (two full six-year for PAAB) term or 12-year (whichever is greater) limit**
- **Limits length of service on each separate board and commission**
- **Applies to ALL (chartered) boards and commissions**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #4:

Change the threshold to initiate a recall

Ordinance pages 17-19 | Ordinance Sections 7-8 | Charter section 12.03

What does it do:

- Current petition threshold requires recall petitions to be signed 25% of electors who voted in most recent gubernatorial election
- Does NOT change percentage
- Changes election used for measurement from “gubernatorial” (even-numbered year every four years) to “municipal” (odd-numbered year every two years)
- Adds reference to compliance with charter and Ohio Law

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #5:

**Change City Council salary to meet the state's minimum
retirement credit threshold**

Ordinance Pages 19-20 | Ordinance sections 9-10 | Charter section 3.10

What does it do:

- **Current Council salary is currently monthly, \$80 per meeting for up to four meetings per month**
- **Changes Council salary to monthly, tied to minimum amount required to receive full monthly service credit**
- **Low/average amount based on survey of Council salaries in nearby and similar municipalities across the state**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #6:

Establish the Military and Veterans' Commission

Ordinance pages 20-21 | Ordinance sections 11-12 | Charter section 8.09 [NEW]

What does it do:

- Adds current Council-created commission to charter
- Comprised of 5 or 7 members
- Includes standard qualification, compensation, vacancy, and public meeting requirements
- Includes clarified term limits per Ballot Issue #3

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #7:

Establish the Park and Natural Resource Board

Ordinance: pages 21-26 | Ordinance sections 13-14 | Charter sections 8.04-8.08

What does it do:

- Combines three chartered boards/commission (Park Board, Cemetery Board, and Tree Commission)
- Lists detailed powers and duties bringing together current (overlapping) responsibilities of all three current chartered boards/commission
- Includes ALL powers and duties of current Council-created committee (Environmental Awareness Committee) in powers and duties of new board
- Comprised of odd number of members between 7 and 11, replacing 22 to 28 current members on four (three chartered and one Council-created) bodies
- Includes standard qualification, compensation, vacancy, and public meeting requirements
- Includes clarified term limits per Ballot Issue #3
- Preserves current requirement for public vote prior to sale of Municipal land devoted to public park purposes or use of public park land for other (non-park) Municipal purposes
- Makes change effective January 1, 2027 to allow one year for transition

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

BALLOT ISSUE #8:

**Enact expenditure accountability for tax levies benefitting
other public and/or private entities**

Ordinance pages 26-27 | Ordinance sections 15-16 | Charter section 6.05 [NEW]

What does it do:

- **Closes accountability/transparency loophole on expenditure side of Municipal finances**
- **Requires receiving entities (other public or private) to have governing bodies tied back to the electors**
- **Includes four options for compliance (two by direct election, one by Council appointment, and one TBD if approved by six members of Council)**
- **Requires Council to determine compliance prior to submitting any tax levy for the ballot, regardless of the type of duration of the requested levy**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

ORDINANCE NEXT STEPS

- **Introduction**
- **Three readings**
- **Discussion and public comment**
- **Adoption**
- **Submission to Board of Elections**
- **VOTE**

2025 HUDSON CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

QUESTIONS?

**Thank you for the opportunity
to serve the City of Hudson.**