

**From:** [Peter Butler](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward1](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward4](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward7](#); [\\*CI-StPaul\\_CC-Ward6](#)  
**Cc:** [Frederick Melo](#); [Galioto, Katie](#); [Dale Mischke](#)  
**Subject:** Letter about Charter Amendment, Resolution 24-1134, August 7 Council Meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, August 4, 2024 4:55:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter on Charter Amendment for August 7, 2024 Council Meeting.pdf](#)

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Thank you for considering the issues in the attached letter.

Peter K. Butler  
One of six charter-amendment sponsors

August 5, 2024

St. Paul City Council  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West 310 City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmembers,

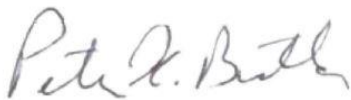
I want to rebut concerns expressed in a Star Tribune article<sup>1</sup> that holding our City elections with presidential elections would be “functionally impossible” to administer if a citizen-sponsored charter amendment passes ([RES 24-1134](#)).

First, the City Council can only reject a charter amendment when the proposed change is unconstitutional or conflicts with State law. Nor can the City Council change the proposed amendment language.

Second, nothing is “functionally impossible” in election administration. City Ordinance permits a two-page ballot when necessary to implement ranked-choice voting.<sup>2</sup> Other cities have ranked-choice voting for municipal elections on presidential years.<sup>3</sup> Hand counting is always a last-resort option.

Third, I caution accepting advice or information from the Ramsey County Elections Office regarding the transition to presidential election years. The Office is not a neutral party regarding this issue, and initially rejected 1,115 signatures for insignificant reasons to keep the amendment off the ballot (see attachments).

Sincerely,



Peter K. Butler  
1060 Grand  
St. Paul, MN 55105

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.startribune.com/st-paul-ballot-measure-will-ask-whether-city-elections-should-move-to-presidential-years/600693381>

<sup>2</sup> [https://library.municode.com/mn/st.\\_paul/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIILECO\\_TITVEL\\_CH31ELRUMUELUNRAVO\\_S31.03BA](https://library.municode.com/mn/st._paul/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIILECO_TITVEL_CH31ELRUMUELUNRAVO_S31.03BA)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.portland.gov/vote>, <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/november-2024-election>, <https://www.sf.gov/events/november-5-2024/november-5-2024-election-readiness-toolkit> and <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/elections>

Ramsey County Elections Office Letter on initial count of 4,004 valid signatures.



To: Shari Moore, City of Saint Paul  
From: David Triplett, Ramsey County  
Subject: Report on the petition submitted on July 8, 2024  
Date: July 16, 2024

Shari,

On July 8, 2024, your office provided Ramsey County a Charter Amendment petition for the City of Saint Paul. Under our mutual contract for election services the Ramsey County Elections Office verifies petition signatures on behalf of the City of Saint Paul.

Upon completion of our review, we have verified that 4,004 registered voters in the City of Saint Paul signed the petition. We have retained in our custody:

- The original petition.
- A copy of the master list of registered voters in Saint Paul as of July 5, 2024. This list was used to verify petition signatures.
- Documentation of the process used to verify petition signatures.
- List of the number of verifiable signatures per petition page.
- Notes on each of the signatures we could not verify.
- Receipt of custody.

Please reach out to me directly with any questions.  
Take care,

David Triplett  
Ramsey County, Deputy Director, PTRES.

City Clerk's directive to Ramsey County Elections Office to recount certain rejected signatures, ultimately resulting in 5,119 valid signatures as reported to the City Council on July 19, 2024 (next page).

From: Shari Moore <[shari.moore@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:shari.moore@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 10:09 AM  
To: Triplett, David <[David.Triplett@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US](mailto:David.Triplett@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US)>  
Subject: Petition Review

Dave, pursuant to our conversation, please review the rejected signatures according to the criteria below. Please let us know the estimate of time to get this done and if you have any questions:

- Please review the rejected signature where the birth year didn't match and accept those that don't include 19 or 20 (two-digit years are acceptable).
- Please accept addresses that are missing avenue, street, etc.
- Please accept addresses where the street name is missing a letter.
- Please accept addresses that are only missing the unit or apartment number.
- Please review signatures that were rejected for voter's "address does not match" and accept signatures that were rejected for reasons above.

**Shari Moore, MMC**  
City Clerk  
Pronouns: she/her/hers  
City Clerk's Office  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West, 310 City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
P: 651-266-8686  
[shari.moore@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:shari.moore@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
[www.StPaul.gov](http://www.StPaul.gov)

Reported count to City Council with 1,115 initially rejected signatures now added to the original 4,004 accepted signatures.



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
SHARI MOORE, CITY CLERK

15 West Kellogg Boulevard, 310 City Hall,  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1615  
Email: shari.moore@ci.stpaul.mn.us  
Tel: 651-266-8686 | Fax: 651-266-8574

July 19, 2024

To: Saint Paul City Council

From: Shari Moore

CERTIFICATE OF INSUFFICIENCY for Charter Amendment Petition submitted on July 8, 2024.

On July 8, 2024 a Petition to amend the city charter was delivered to my office by a Commission of Petitioners. A total of 5,437 valid signatures is required under Minnesota Statute section 410.12. Ramsey County Elections conducted an examination of the petition and verified that only 5,119 of the signatures lines submitted are valid.

Therefore, I hereby certify that the petition is insufficient, as provided by Minn. Stat. § 410.12, subd. 3.

The Petitioners may amend the Petition within ten days by filing a supplementary petition in my office. If they choose to file additional papers, Ramsey County Elections will make an examination of the amended petition within five days of receipt.

Example of petition signatures initially rejected for not having "Avenue" as part of the address.

**Proposing a Ballot Question to Amend the City Charter of St. Paul, MN, for City Elections in Presidential Election Years**

**Chapter 7 (Elections) of the City Charter shall be amended as follows:**  
 Sec. 7.01. - City elections. The election of city officers and such other officers as are required by law to be elected at a city election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd-numbered presidential election years. Notwithstanding Section 2.02 of this Charter setting four-year terms, and to transition to presidential election years, councilmembers elected on November 7, 2023, shall serve a five-year term and a mayoral election shall occur on November 4, 2025, for a three-year term.

We, the undersigned voters of St. Paul, MN, petition for this amendment's submission to City voters per MN Statutes, Chapter 410.12.

SIGNER'S OATH: "I swear (or affirm) that I know the contents and purpose of this petition and that I signed the petition only once and of my own free will."

All information must be filled in by person(s) signing the petition unless disability prevents the person(s) from doing so.

| Signature      | Date    | Print Full Name (first, middle, last) | Birth Year | Residence Address | City & County   |
|----------------|---------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. [Signature] | 4-12-24 | Andrew J. Morrison                    | 1951       | 1525 Lincoln      | St. Paul Ramsey |
| 2. [Signature] | 4-12-24 | Maurice H. Hager                      | 1955       | 1525 Lincoln      | St. Paul Ramsey |
| 3. [Signature] | 4-12-24 | Denton Peterson                       | 1951       | 1525 Lincoln      | St. Paul Ramsey |
| 4. [Signature] | 4/12/24 | Larry Gannon                          | 1943       | 1525 Lincoln      | St. Paul Ramsey |
| 5. [Signature] | 4/12/24 | Thomas Bryson                         | 1980       | 1527 Lincoln      | St. Paul Ramsey |
| 6. [Signature] | 4/12/24 | Katherine Schilling                   | 1952       | 1495 Osceola      | St. Paul Ramsey |
| 7. [Signature] | 4/12/24 | Erica Huv                             | 1972       | 1572 Osceola      | St. Paul Ramsey |
| 8. [Signature] | 4/12/24 | Frederick Johnson                     | 1974       | 1514 Osceola      | St. Paul Ramsey |

This petition is sponsored by St. Paul residents: Peter Butler, 1060 Grand Ave #401, 55105 | Ann Dolan, 1930 Jefferson Ave, 55105 | Kristen O'Brien, 1672 Pinehurst Ave, 55116 | Barb & Steve Proeschel, 2136 Bayard Ave, 55116 | Rick Sutherland, 1425 Avon St. N., 55117

**All information on this petition is subject to public inspection.**