

# City of Minneapolis

## Request for Committee Action

**To:** Committee of the Whole  
**Date:** 7/20/2016  
**Referral:** N/A  
**From:** City Clerk's Office  
**Lead Staff:** Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk  
**Presented by:** Casey Joe Carl  
**File Type:** Receive & File  
**Subcategory:** Report

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**Subject:**

Petition to amend the City Charter: Minimum wage

**Description:**

Receiving a report on the sufficiency of a citizen petition proposing to amend the City Charter in the form of a ballot question to establish a minimum wage in the City of Minneapolis at \$15 per hour.

**Previous Actions:**

The petition was formally presented to the Minneapolis Charter Commission at its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, and was transmitted to the city clerk the next day. Under the statute, the City must validate the petition within ten days, after which the city clerk must either certify the petition either as being sufficient to the statutory requirement for signatures, or to certify the petition as being insufficient and to identify the defects.

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**Ward/Address:**

All Wards

**Background/Analysis:**

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section [410.12, subd. 2](#), the Vote 15 Now MN Committee submitted a petition to amend the City Charter in the form of a ballot question to be submitted to the electorate in the 2016 Presidential General Election, set for Tuesday, November 8, 2016. If approved by voters, the effect of the amendment would be to establish a minimum wage in the City of Minneapolis at \$15 per hour. Under the statute, any such petition must be signed by a number of registered voters equal to at least 5 percent of the total votes cast in the city at the most recent state general election. The last statewide general election was conducted in 2014, at which time a total of 137,362 ballots were cast; thus, a successful petition requires the signatures of at least 6,869 registered voters to be deemed valid.

After receiving the petition from the Charter Commission, the City is required to validate the petition meets the minimum signature requirements set by statute within ten days. At the end of that ten-day period, the city clerk is required to certify whether the petition satisfies the statutory requirements; if so, the petition is certified as a valid petition and submitted to the City Council for its further consideration in developing language for a ballot question to be submitted to the electorate, otherwise the city clerk must certify the petition as insufficient and identify the defects. If the petition is certified insufficient, then the petitioner (15Now) has an additional ten-day period in which to cure the petition by addressing the defects identified by the city clerk and/or securing additional qualified signatures. After that ten-day period, the

petitioner must submit any supplemental filings to cure the petition and the City has five days to validate any supplemental filings.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. [§ 205.16, subd. 4](#), any ballot question to be presented to the electorate must be submitted to the county at least 74 days before the date of the election. This year, the general election is set for Tuesday, November 8; thus, the deadline for submitting all ballot questions to the county is Friday, August 26, 2016.

The City Council is charged with determining the language of the ballot question, if the matter is submitted to the electorate. The ballot question must be voted on in the affirmative by at least 51 percent of those casting votes on the question to be adopted. If adopted, the amendment takes effect 30 days after the date of the election unless a later time is provided for in the language of the amendment.

**Financial Review:**

**No financial impact.**

The unanticipated costs associated with validating the petition will be accounted for by the Office of City Clerk in its report on the 2016 Presidential Election

**Attachments:**

1. Certificate of the City Clerk