

**DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**  
**PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY**

**ISSUE NUMBER:** GOS 57

**ISSUE CATEGORY:** Government Operations & Structure

**SOURCE:** City Council,

**RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS:** §4-10\_ (Vacancy) (New Provision)

Letter dated December 2, 2010

**RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:**

**RELEVANT LAW(S):**

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**ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT:** Allow City Council to fill a vacancy (for unexpired term) by appointment until next general election. Election must happen no sooner than 180 days after vacancy occurs. Person appointed must meet qualification for city council as required by Charter.

Sec. 4-10\_. Vacancy. (New Provision)

If a vacancy occurs on the office of city council, the city council shall appoint a successor who shall serve until an elected city council member takes office. A city council member shall be elected (for the unexpired term, if any) at the next general election in the city held not sooner than one hundred eighty (180) days after the occurrence of the vacancy. All appointments made under this section must meet all qualifications required by this Charter.

**RATIONALE:** “This provision will allow City Council to temporarily fill a vacancy in its membership.” –*City Council Recommendations, dated November 19, 2010*

“This provision will allow city council to temporarily fill a vacancy in its membership. Such vacancies have occurred in both of the last two city council terms. The appointed council member would have to stand for election at the next regularly scheduled election. In a council-by-districts structure, the appointed member would have to be a resident of the district, assuming that is a requirement for election as a district representative, and all other applicable requirements would also have to be met to be eligible for such appointment. See also the discussion, *supra*, under section 3-101 addressing the filling of vacancies.”-City Council’s Rationale, Letter, dated December 13, 2010.

**ANALYSIS:**

**DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:**

**NOTES:**