

## LOCAL PROPOSAL PETITION AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER

A proposal to amend the City Charter of the City of Grand Rapids by amending Section 18 of Title V (Compiler’s Paragraph 68), to reduce certain mandatory budget appropriations for police services and to require the City to appropriate funds for affordable housing, mental and physical health, environmental sustainability, police accountability, and economic growth in areas with high rates of gun violence, unemployment, and child poverty.

The full text of the proposal is as follows (language to be deleted is struck out with a line and language to be added is in capital letters):

**68. Estimate of Expenditures-Submitted by City Manager. Sec. 18.** On or before the first Tuesday in April of each year, and before any monies shall be raised, or taxes levied and collected, for the purposes of the several funds and appropriations authorized by the provisions of this act, or acts amendatory thereof, the City Manager shall submit to the City Commission an estimate of the expenditures of the City for the ensuing fiscal year. Such estimate shall be compiled from and based upon detailed information furnished by the various departments of the city government requiring appropriations, and shall be upon uniform blanks to be prepared by the City Comptroller. They shall give in parallel columns the following information:

- (a). A detailed estimate of the expense of conducting each department.
- (b). Expenditures for and revenue derived from corresponding items for the last two fiscal years.
- (c). Increase or decrease as compared with appropriations for corresponding items for the last fiscal year.
- (d). The recommendation of the City Manager as to the amount to be appropriated.

(e). On or before the second Monday in May of each year, the City Commission shall provide by ordinance for a budget and for the levy of taxes sufficient with other resources to pay the estimated expenses of the city government for the ensuing fiscal year, the contingent fund requirements, and the maintenance of all sinking funds and the principal of and interest on all municipal debts, bonded or otherwise. The City Commission is authorized to levy and collect taxes annually in a sum up to and including 1 per centum of the assessed valuation of all real and personal property in the City, subject to the provisions of Section 1a of Chapter VII of Act No. 202 of the Public Acts of 1943, as amended. Provided, that commencing July 1, 1995, said 1 per centum shall become 84,148 / 100,000ths of 1 per centum (8.41 mills) for any year that the Uniform City Income Tax Ordinance, as provided for by Act 284 of the Public Acts of 1964, as amended, is in effect in the City; and, provided further, that from and after July 1, 1989 the millage limitation shall be 64,100 / 100,000ths of 1 per centum (6.41 mills) during any year that the Uniform City Income Tax Ordinance as provided for by Act 284 of the Public Acts of 1964, as amended, is in effect in the City at a rate greater than 1% on corporations and resident individuals and .5% on non-resident individuals. Provided further that the City Commission shall allocate 215 / 1,000ths of 1 per centum (2.15 mills) for the operation and maintenance of the Library and that this allocation shall be inclusive of the 3/5 mill provided for the maintenance and running of the Library in Title XIII, Section 10 of this Charter.

(1) In addition to any millage levied pursuant to the above Section 18(e), and not limited thereby, the City Commission is authorized to levy and collect taxes annually in a sum up to and including 39.5 / 1,000ths of 1 per centum (.395 mills) of the assessed valuation of all real and personal property in the City, for a period of twenty years, commencing July 1, 1998 through July, 1, 2017, to be allocated to and used for capital improvements for the Grand Rapids Public Library.

(2) In addition to any millage levied pursuant to the above Section 18(e), and not limited thereby, the City Commission is authorized to levy and collect taxes annually in a sum up to and including 98 / 1,000ths of 1 per centum (.98 mills), for a period of seven years, commencing January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2020, to be allocated to and used for parks, pools, and playgrounds.

(3) In addition to any millage levied pursuant to the above Section 18(e), and not limited thereby, the City Commission is authorized to levy 0.3741 mills (one mill equals a levy of \$1.00 for each \$1,000 of taxable value) for twenty years, 2018 through 2037, to be used for operations, maintenance, repairs and capital improvements of the Public Library which will raise an estimated \$1,750,000 in the first year.

(f). Such budget ordinance shall contain the several items for which appropriations are to be made, as follows:

- (a) The Sinking Fund,
- (b) Departmental Appropriations,
- (c) The Contingent Fund,

(d) Not less than ~~32%~~ 9.8% of the General Operating Fund shall be appropriated for ~~police services while both a City Income Tax of 1.3% or more is in effect for corporations and resident individuals and a City Income Tax of .65% or more is in effect for non-resident individuals~~ AFFORDABLE HOUSING, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF COMMUNITIES WITH DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH RATES OF GUN VIOLENCE, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND CHILD POVERTY.

**Money Used Only for Purposes Designated.** (g). The monies so provided by such budget ordinance, except the monies provided for the contingent fund, shall not be used by transfer or otherwise, for any purpose other than that for which such appropriations were designated and raised; Provided, that the City Commission may authorize the transfer of operation and maintenance items, appropriated to the same department, but monies appropriated for permanent improvements or for purposes other than operation and maintenance shall be used only for the purposes designated in the budget ordinance.

**Emergency Provisions.** (h). The City Commission is authorized to expend, or transfer from the contingent fund such sums as may be necessary for the relief of the inhabitants or the preservation of public property in case of fire, flood, epidemic or other calamity or for other necessary purposes for which no specific appropriation is made in the budget ordinance.

The proposal shall constitute one ballot question that reads as follows:

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

A proposal to amend the City Charter of the City of Grand Rapids by amending Section 18 of Title V (Compiler’s Paragraph 68), to replace certain mandatory budget appropriations in subsection (f) and, instead, require the City to appropriate no less than 9.8% of the General Operating Fund for affordable housing, mental and physical health, environmental sustainability, police accountability, and economic growth of communities with disproportionately high gun violence, unemployment, and child poverty.

Should the proposal be adopted?

- YES
- NO