

**FACT SHEET:
WORTHINGTON CHARTER AMENDMENTS
ISSUES 35, 36, 37, 38**

**OUR CITY
OUR VOICE**
WORTHINGTON

We are Pro- Good Development and Pro-Democracy. Both are essential.

We fully support development in Worthington, including more housing, that enhances our city without burdening residents with excessive costs. You'll hear our opponents claim that we're anti-development and that an accessible right of referendum will stop all development. Here's the truth: Projects like Worthington Gateway, Stafford Village, Granby Place, and Kemper (Cotter) House, have all been built in recent years without public opposition or referendums. The right of referendum encourages good projects, and deters the bad.

Better decisions are made when the public has a strong voice.

City Government Proposals

 ISSUE 35

Cuts in half the number of days (60 to 30) for citizens to appeal zoning changes they judge to be harmful to the community. The City's own Charter Commission report states that **75% of public feedback opposes this City proposal** (but they still put it on the ballot). Issue 35 would reverse a direct vote cast by Worthington residents in 2015, which established the 60 day period. It would weaken a vital check and balance while **diminishing the voice of the residents**.

VOTE NO on 35.

 ISSUE 36

A **copycat measure** City Council introduced *after* citizen-led Issue 38 (see below) was already certified for the ballot. The Commission's own report admits that Issue 36 was hastily drafted at its final meeting specifically to counter the citizens' petition proposal after they realized that the public supported our effort. The difference? Issue 36 arbitrarily ties signature requirements to votes for governor, **in an effort to make it harder for residents to be heard**.

VOTE NO on 36.

 ISSUE 37

Would eliminate the Architectural Review Board, Municipal Planning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Instead, Issue 37 would concentrate power in a single 8-member Municipal Development Commission. **This dismantling of our review process is high on the developers' wish list.** This translates into far fewer resident decision-makers and avenues for public testimony and appeal.

Issue 37 would also weaken ethical standards for Council and City staff (Section 4.08 & Section 9.03). Eliminates the mandatory removal from office for officials who knowingly violate conflict-of-interest rules; carves out exceptions to the strict prohibition against city officials and employees holding financial interests in city contracts; and weakens penalties for employees/officials who knowingly enter contracts exceeding budgeted appropriations.

VOTE NO on 37.

 ISSUE 38

Restores access to the right of referendum by reversing the state legislature's more than tripling the number of signatures required. Issue 38 will return us to a standard that worked well in Worthington for decades. Sensibly, the **signature threshold for local referendums would be based on votes cast in our local elections** (not governor).

VOTE YES on 38.

NO 35 NO 36 NO 37
YES 38!
OUR CITY OUR VOICE



For more details and to get a yard sign:

OurCityOurVoteWorthington.org

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Citizens'
Proposal