

Proposed Changes to the St. Mary Parish Charter

Introduction

This report summarizes the actions taken by the St. Mary Parish Charter Commission as part of its formal review and revision of the Home Rule Charter. Each proposed amendment included in this document was recommended by majority vote of the Commission during its public meetings and is presented here in a format designed to ensure clarity, transparency, and traceability.

For each recommended amendment, the report provides:

- The **section of the Charter affected**;
- A **brief subject heading** describing the focus of the change;
- An **abstract** summarizing the purpose and intent of the amendment;
- A detailed **comparison of the current and proposed Charter language**.

This format follows a structure similar to legislative digests used by the Louisiana Legislature and is intended to aid both Commission members and the public in understanding the scope and rationale of each proposed revision. The changes reflect the Commission's efforts to modernize governance structures, improve legal consistency, clarify procedures, and ensure the Charter aligns with the practical and legal needs of the Parish going forward.

Unless otherwise noted, all recommendations are based on discussion and formal action taken during the Commission's scheduled meetings, and are supported by input from legal counsel, public comment, and administrative review.

Section 2-01(A) – Composition, Qualifications and Election

Subject: Council Reduction, Elimination of At-Large Seats, and Transition to Eight (8) Single-Member Districts

Abstract:

Revises the structure of the Parish Council to eliminate all at-large seats and establish a unified body composed of eight (8) single-member districts. This amendment replaces the prior eleven-member structure—eight district representatives and three at-large—with eight district-based representatives elected from the existing boundaries. No redistricting is required at this time, as the eight current districts shall remain in effect until modified by ordinance in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

The change strengthens local representation, improves accountability, and simplifies future administrative adjustments by consolidating the authority to modify district boundaries into the Council's normal ordinance process.

Proposed Amendments:

Replaces reference to the 11-member council structure and enumerated district references with updated language reflecting an 8-member council. Specifies that the eight existing districts remain in effect unless and until modified by ordinance in accordance with state and federal law.

Current

~~The legislative power of the Parish government shall be vested in a council consisting of members who shall be elected for four (4) year terms from districts enumerated in Section 8-01 (Council Districts).~~

Proposed

The legislative power of the Parish government shall be vested in a council composed of eight (8) members elected from single-member districts for four (4) year terms. The specific boundaries of these districts shall remain as established at the time of this Charter's adoption, unless and until modified by ordinance in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

Section 2-01(B) – Composition, Qualifications and Election

Subject: Council Member Qualifications

Abstract:

Requires that candidates for parish council must have been qualified electors of their district for at least one year prior to the time of qualification.

Proposed Amendment:

Amends existing language which currently requires only that a council member be a qualified elector at the time of qualification. The revised language adds a one-year durational requirement to establish a stronger residency tie between the candidate and the district.

Current

A council member shall have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and ~~shall be a qualified elector~~ of the district from which elected at the time of qualification.

Proposed

A council member shall have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and shall have been a qualified elector for at least 1-year of the district from which elected at the time of qualification.

Section 2-01(D) – Composition, Qualifications and Election

Subject: Parish Council Term Limits

Abstract:

Establishes uniform term limits for members of the Parish Council consistent with those applicable to the Parish President. Under this amendment, a Council Member who has served more than one and one-half (1½) consecutive terms in two consecutive terms shall be ineligible for election to the succeeding term. This clarification ensures parity between the executive and legislative branches, promotes leadership rotation, and broadens opportunities for public representation while maintaining continuity of experience on the Council.

Current

Any council member elected after the effective date of this provision, who has represented any council districts for more than ~~two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms~~ shall not be elected for the succeeding term for any council district.

Proposed

A council member who has served more than one and one-half (1½) consecutive terms in two consecutive terms shall not be elected for the succeeding term. This provision shall apply retroactively and shall be applicable to the council members seated at the time of this Charter's adoption.

Section 2-04 – Vacancies

Subject: Disability-Based Vacancies for Council Members

Abstract:

Establishes a process for declaring a council seat vacant if a member is medically unable to perform their duties for an extended period of time, with procedural safeguards including a medical panel and required public hearing.

Proposed Amendment:

Adds new Subsections E and F to Section 2-04. Subsection E authorizes a medical panel to certify a council member's inability to serve, triggering vacancy procedures if the condition continues. Subsection F allows the council to declare the seat vacant if the disability persists beyond six months, following a public hearing. These provisions mirror those applied to the Parish President in Section 3-09, ensuring consistent treatment of executive and legislative offices.

Current

The Charter does not currently have Disability Provisions for Council Members.

Proposed

Section 2-04. Council Vacancies and Disability.

E. Whenever a council member transmits to the clerk of the council a written declaration stating inability to discharge the powers and duties of the office, and until the council member transmits to the clerk of the council a written declaration to the contrary, the council seat shall be filled in the same manner as in Section 2-04 (B).

F. Whenever a panel of three (3) qualified medical experts, designated by resolution adopted by the favorable vote of at least a majority of the membership of the council, transmits to the clerk of the council its written declaration that a council member is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office, the Council seat shall be filled in the same manner as in Section 2-04 (B). The person filling the office shall serve until a panel of three (3) qualified medical experts, designated by resolution adopted by the favorable vote of at least a majority of the membership of the council, transmits to the clerk of the council its written declaration that the council member's inability has ended. The medical experts shall review the disability at least once every three (3) months until such time as it has been determined that the disability has ended.

G. Should a Council Member be unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office for a period exceeding six (6) consecutive months, the council shall have the authority upon the favorable vote of at least a majority of its membership to declare the Council seat vacant due to disability provided, however, that the council shall hold a public hearing on the issue prior to any such declaration.

Section 2-05(A) – Compensation

Subject: Council Member Compensation Update and CPI Adjustment

Abstract:

Updates the Parish Council’s compensation for the first time since the Charter’s adoption in 1983. The amendment increases Council Member pay from \$450 to \$1,500 per month and sets the Council Chair’s compensation at \$1,750 per month to reflect modern service expectations and inflation over the past four decades. It also introduces an automatic cost-of-living adjustment every four (4) years based on the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding period, effective with the next council term. This ensures that compensation remains fair and transparent while eliminating the need for frequent voter referenda.

Current

~~The compensation of council members shall be \$450 per month, except that council members elected by all voters in the Parish shall receive \$800 per month. The compensation of council members may be increased only upon approval by a majority vote of the electors voting on the proposal in an election held in accordance with election dates as prescribed by state law.~~

Proposed

Each council member shall receive compensation in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per month. The Council Chair shall receive compensation in the amount of one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) per month.

Beginning with the next Council term, these amounts shall be automatically adjusted every four (4) years based on the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding four-year period. Any increase beyond the CPI-based adjustment shall require approval by a majority of the electors voting on the proposal in an election held in accordance with state law.

Section 2-05(B) – Compensation

Subject: Expense Reimbursement Clarification

Abstract:

Removes the phrase “while outside the Parish” from the reimbursement provision in order to clarify that Council Members may be eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred while attending official functions within the Parish, subject to applicable policies and documentation requirements.

Proposed Amendment:

Amends Section 2-05(B) by striking the restrictive language that limits reimbursement only to out-of-parish expenses. The revised section provides broader flexibility for reimbursing reasonable expenses incurred during the performance of official duties, whether inside or outside the Parish. The change aligns the Charter with existing ordinances and practices that support transparency and documentation of all reimbursable expenses.

Current

The council, by ordinance, may adopt a system of reimbursement, upon presentation of properly documented receipts, of reasonable expenses necessary to the performance of official duties by a member ~~while outside the Parish.~~

Proposed

The council, by ordinance, may adopt a system of reimbursement, upon presentation of properly documented receipts, of reasonable expenses necessary to the performance of official duties by a member.

Section 2-07(C) – Council Meetings and Rules

Subject: Publication of Council Actions

Abstract:

Revises the timeline for publishing official actions of the council by removing the fixed 30-day requirement and instead deferring to the timeline prescribed by state law.

Proposed Amendment:

Modifies the existing publication requirement to ensure alignment with Louisiana state law. The original fixed deadline of 30 days is replaced with language that references current statutory requirements, allowing for future consistency without the need to amend the Charter if the law changes.

Current

The council shall conduct its business in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and shall provide for keeping a journal of its minutes and proceedings. This journal shall be a public record. All official actions of the council shall be published in the official journal ~~within thirty (30) days of the action taken.~~

Proposed

The council shall conduct its business in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and shall provide for keeping a journal of its minutes and proceedings. This journal shall be a public record. All official actions of the council shall be published in the official journal in accordance with state law.

Section 2-07(F) – Council Meetings and Rules

Subject: Council Chair Selection, Term Limits, and Compensation Update

Abstract:

Revises procedures for selecting the Council Chair and Vice Chair to reflect the revised eight-member council structure and eliminate obsolete provisions tied to former at-large positions. The amendment clarifies that the Chair may be chosen from any district and may serve no more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms. It also updates compensation to a fixed monthly rate of **\$1,750** and provides for automatic cost-of-living adjustments every four (4) years based on the average Consumer Price Index (CPI), effective with the next council term. These changes modernize council leadership procedures, promote rotation in leadership, and ensure that compensation remains equitable and responsive to inflation.

Current

At the first regular meeting of a newly elected council and annually thereafter, a chairman and vice chairman shall be elected by the council from among the council members. ~~In the event some council members are elected at large, the chairman and vice chairman shall be selected from those council members elected at large in the Parish.~~ The chairman shall preside at meetings of the council, and in the absence or disqualification of the chairman, the vice chairman shall preside. In the absence or disqualification of both the chairman and vice chairman, the council shall designate one of its other members as temporary presiding officer. The chairman, vice chairman and temporary presiding officer shall be voting members of the council. ~~The chairman shall receive additional compensation of fifty dollars (\$50) per month.~~

Proposed

At the first regular meeting of a newly elected council and annually thereafter, a chairman and vice chairman shall be elected by the council from among the council members. The chairman may be selected from any district and may serve no more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms. The chairman shall preside at meetings of the council, and in the absence or disqualification of the chairman, the vice chairman shall preside. In the absence or disqualification of both the chairman and vice chairman, the council shall designate one of its other members as temporary presiding officer. The chairman, vice chairman and temporary presiding officer shall be voting members of the council.

The chairperson shall receive compensation in the amount of one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) per month. Beginning with the next Council term, these amounts shall be automatically adjusted every four (4) years based on the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding four-year period. Any increase beyond the CPI-based adjustment shall require approval by a majority of the electors voting on the proposal in an election held in accordance with state law.

Section 2-08 – Investigations

Subject: Scope of Council Investigative Authority

Abstract:

Clarifies and narrows the scope of the Parish Council’s investigative authority to ensure it applies only to individuals and entities operating under the jurisdiction or authority of the Parish Government. This amendment aims to prevent overreach into independently elected offices such as the Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor, or Clerk of Court.

Proposed Amendment:

Replaces the list of specific public positions (e.g., “officer,” “employee,” “official”) with the broader but more precise phrase “anyone acting under the jurisdiction or authority of the Parish Government.” The intent is to clarify that the Council’s investigatory power is limited to those who operate within or under the auspices of Parish Government, thereby excluding other constitutionally or independently elected offices not subject to council oversight. All existing procedures and ethical limitations, including majority vote and conflict-of-interest restrictions, are retained.

Current

The Parish council may make investigations into the affairs of the Parish government and the related conduct of ~~any Parish official, officer, employee, department, office, or agency~~ and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Investigations shall be for a specified purpose and may be undertaken only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the council. Any person who fails or refuses to obey any lawful order of the council shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished in such manner as the council shall fix by ordinance. No council member shall vote on any matter under investigation in which said council member has a conflict of interest.

Proposed

The Parish council may make investigations into the affairs of the Parish government and the related conduct of anyone acting under the jurisdiction or authority of the Parish Government and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Investigations shall be for a specified purpose and may be undertaken only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the council. Any person who fails or refuses to obey any lawful order of the council shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished in such manner as the council shall fix by ordinance. No council member shall vote on any matter under investigation in which said council member has a conflict of interest.

Section 2-12(B) – Ordinances in General

Subject: Ordinance Publication and Adoption Timing

Abstract:

Extends the timeframe for publication of proposed ordinances and resets the minimum waiting period for final adoption to begin after publication, rather than introduction. Also clarifies that the public hearing on an ordinance shall occur at the same meeting where final passage is considered.

Proposed Amendment:

Revises the timeline for handling ordinances by increasing the publication window from **seven (7)** to **twenty (20)** days after introduction, providing additional flexibility and alignment with public notice practices. The amendment also moves the start of the minimum 20-day consideration period to begin **after publication** instead of after introduction, ensuring adequate time for public review. It additionally clarifies that the public hearing must be held at the meeting where final passage is considered, eliminating ambiguity.

Current

All proposed ordinances shall be read by title when introduced and published in full or in summary within ~~seven (7)~~ days after introduction, except that ordinances proposing amendments to the charter shall be published in full. Except as otherwise provided in Section 2-14 (Emergency Ordinances), no ordinance shall be considered for final passage until at least twenty (20) days from the date of **introduction** and after a public hearing has been held on the ordinance. The public hearing **may** be held at the meeting at which final passage is to be considered.

Proposed

All proposed ordinances shall be read by title when introduced and published in full or in summary within twenty (20) days after introduction, except that ordinances proposing amendments to the charter shall be published in full. Except as otherwise provided in Section 2-14 (Emergency Ordinances), no ordinance shall be considered for final passage until at least twenty (20) days from the date of publication and after a public hearing has been held on the ordinance. The public hearing shall be held at the meeting at which final passage is to be considered.

Section 3-01 – Executive Authority

Subject: President Designated as Chief Administrative Officer and Separation of Powers Clarification

Abstract:

Formally designates the Parish President as both the chief executive and chief administrative officer of the Parish. This amendment reflects the Commission’s decision to consolidate administrative and executive authority into a single elected office, improving accountability and aligning with structural changes elsewhere in the charter.

The amendment also adds a clarifying statement reinforcing the **separation of powers** between the executive and legislative branches, ensuring that no individual holding office in one branch may exercise the powers or perform the functions of the other. This provision strengthens internal checks and balances and preserves the independence of each branch of Parish government.

Proposed Amendment:

Adds language to clarify that the Parish President is not only the chief executive but also the chief administrative officer. This forms the foundation for eliminating the separate CAO position and relocating its duties under the authority of the President.

Global Conforming Amendment:

All references throughout the Charter to the “Chief Administrative Officer” are amended to read “Parish President” to ensure consistency with this structural change.

Current

The president shall be the chief executive of the Parish government and shall exercise such general executive authority as authorized by this charter.

Proposed

The president shall be the chief executive and chief administrative officer of the Parish government and shall exercise such general executive and administrative authority as authorized by this charter. No person holding office in the legislative or executive branch shall exercise a power or perform a function belonging to the other branch. No person holding office in the legislative or executive branch shall exercise a power or perform a function belonging to the other branch.

Section 3-02 – Election, Term

Subject: Parish President Term Limits

Abstract:

Clarifies and restates term limits for the Parish President. A person who has served as Parish President for more than one and one-half (1½) consecutive terms in two consecutive terms is ineligible to seek election for the succeeding term. The amendment applies retroactively to prior service, ensuring consistency and fairness in applying the new limit while supporting opportunities for new leadership.

Current

The president shall be elected at large from and by the qualified electors of the Parish according to the election laws of the state for a four (4)-year term. A person who has served as president for more than one and one-half terms in two consecutive terms shall not be elected president for the succeeding term.

Proposed

The president shall be elected at large from and by the qualified electors of the Parish according to the election laws of the state for a four (4)-year term. A person who has served as president for more than one and one-half (1½) consecutive terms in two consecutive terms shall not be elected president for the succeeding term. [This provision shall apply retroactively and shall be applicable to the current parish president seated at the time of this Charter's adoption.](#)

Section 3-03 – Qualifications

Subject: Parish President – Residency Requirement

Abstract:

Increases the required residency period for candidates seeking the office of Parish President from one (1) year to five (5) years prior to the time of qualification, strengthening the local experience and connection expected of executive leadership.

Proposed Amendment:

Amends the existing qualification standards for the office of Parish President by lengthening the required period of legal domicile and actual residence within the Parish from one year to five years. This change reflects the Charter Commission’s intent to ensure deeper familiarity with Parish issues and a stronger commitment to the local community.

Current

The president shall be at least twenty-five (25) years of age and a qualified elector of the Parish at the time of qualification and shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided in the Parish at least **the one (1) year** immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office.

Proposed

The president shall be at least twenty-five (25) years of age and a qualified elector of the Parish at the time of qualification and shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided in the Parish at least **five (5) years** immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office.

Section 3-04 – Compensation

Subject: Parish President Salary – Benchmarking and Adjustment Mechanism

Abstract:

Updates the Parish President’s salary from the original \$12,000 annual rate established in 1983 to **\$125,000 per year**, reflecting the full-time responsibilities of the office and aligning compensation with comparable executive positions in Louisiana parish governments. The amendment also introduces an automatic cost-of-living adjustment every four (4) years based on the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding period. These adjustments will take effect at the start of the next presidential term, ensuring salary updates occur transparently and on a predictable schedule.

Current:

~~The salary of the president shall be \$12,000 annually. The salary of the president may be increased only upon approval by a majority vote of the electors voting on the proposal in an election held in accordance with election dates as prescribed by state law.~~

Proposed:

The Parish President shall receive an annual salary of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) per year. Beginning with the next presidential term, this amount shall be automatically adjusted every four (4) years based on the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding four-year period.

The president shall receive no other salary or compensation from the Parish government unless authorized by a majority vote of the electors voting on the proposal in an election held in accordance with election dates as prescribed by state law.

Section 3-06(B) – Vacancies

Subject: President Vacancy Timeline – Conformance with State Law

Abstract:

Revises the threshold that determines whether a special election must be called to fill a vacancy in the office of Parish President. Rather than using a fixed one-year cutoff, the amendment defers to the vacancy timeline established by state law, ensuring automatic compliance if state rules change.

Proposed Amendment:

The existing Charter specifies that a special election must be held if a vacancy occurs more than one year before the end of the term. The revised language removes the fixed “one (1) year” threshold and replaces it with a reference to the period defined by state law for triggering special elections. This change ensures that the Charter remains legally aligned without the need for future amendments whenever state law is updated. No changes are made to the appointment process or to the governor’s authority if the Council fails to act.

Current:

~~A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by appointment of a person meeting the qualifications for the office by a majority vote of the authorized membership of the council. If one (1) year or less of the unexpired term remains when the vacancy occurs, the appointment shall be for the remainder of the term. If the vacancy occurs more than one (1) year prior to the expiration of the term, the appointment shall be until such time as the office is filled by the vote of the qualified electors voting in a special election called by the council for that purpose, which election shall be held according to the timetable and procedures established by state law generally for the filling of vacancies in elected local offices.~~

Proposed:

A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by appointment of a person meeting the qualifications for the office by a majority vote of the authorized membership of the council. If the unexpired term at the time of the vacancy is equal to or less than the period established by state law for such purposes, the appointee shall serve for the remainder of the term. If the unexpired term exceeds the threshold established by state law, the appointee shall serve until such time as the office is filled by the vote of the qualified electors voting in a special election called by the council for that purpose, which election shall be held according to the timetable and procedures established by state law generally for the filling of vacancies in elected local offices.

Section 3-07 – Prohibitions

Subject: Full-Time Status and Outside Employment Limitation for Parish President

Abstract:

Clarifies that the office of Parish President is expected to function as a full-time role and that the President must remain fully available to carry out executive and administrative responsibilities. While the amendment does not impose a blanket ban on outside employment, it establishes a standard that the President shall not engage in any non-governmental activity that would interfere with or detract from the performance of official duties. This reinforces the high level of commitment expected from the chief executive while allowing flexibility consistent with ethical and professional standards.

Proposed Amendment:

Adds language to Section 3-07 stating that the Parish President shall serve in a full-time capacity and shall not participate in any non-governmental activity that conflicts with the duties of the office. The new language supplements existing prohibitions on holding other elected or compensated appointive public office and affirms the central administrative role of the President under the Charter. The current allowance for service on political committees or similar bodies remains intact as Subsection C.

Current

A. The president shall hold no other elected public office nor any compensated appointive office or employment of the Parish government or any of its political subdivisions during the term of office for which elected and shall hold no compensated appointive office or employment of the Parish government or any of its political subdivisions until one (1) year after expiration of the term for which elected.

B. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the president from serving as an elected member of a political party committee, charter commission or constitutional convention.

Proposed

A. The president shall hold no other elected public office nor any compensated appointive office or employment of the Parish government or any of its political subdivisions during the term of office for which elected and shall hold no compensated appointive office or employment of the Parish government or any of its political subdivisions until one (1) year after expiration of the term for which elected.

B. The office of Parish President shall be a full-time position. 1) The President shall be the Chief Executive and Administrator Officer of the Parish Government and shall exercise general executive and administrative authority over all departments, offices and agencies of the parish except as otherwise provided by the Charter. 2) The President

shall not engage in any activity unrelated to Parish government business that would interfere with or detract from the performance of duties as President.

C. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the president from serving as an elected member of a political party committee, charter commission or constitutional convention.

Section 3-10 – Powers and Duties of the President

Subject: Integration of Administrative Duties from Former CAO Role

Abstract:

Expands Section 3-10 to integrate the responsibilities previously assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), in accordance with the Commission's action to consolidate executive and administrative authority into the Parish President. These duties include oversight of all departments, appointment and supervision of department heads, and personnel administration. The amendment strengthens executive clarity by making the President solely responsible for administration of Parish government.

Proposed Amendment:

Adds a new subsection to Section 3-10 detailing the administrative responsibilities of the President, including appointment powers, supervisory authority, personnel actions, and internal administrative management. The new language is adapted from former Section 4-03.

Current

Section 3-10 outlines the general powers and duties of the Parish President, including execution of laws, budget preparation, and enforcement of ordinances. It does not currently include direct administrative supervision language.

B. Proposed

The president shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of the Parish government. The president shall appoint and supervise all department directors and may delegate authority to subordinate officers as needed.

- a. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all departments, offices and agencies shall be under the direction and supervision of the parish president, and the heads of all departments created by or under this charter shall be appointed by the president, and shall serve at the pleasure of the president.
- b. The salaries of the directors of the departments appointed by the president shall be set by the president, subject to approval by a majority vote of the council membership.
- c. The chief administrative officer shall:
 - i. Supervise activities of all departments, offices and agencies whose head he appoints.
 - ii. Appoint and suspend or remove for just cause all Parish government employees of the departments, offices and agencies under the jurisdiction of the president in accordance with personnel policies as provided in Section 4-08 (Personnel System). The president may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to the president's direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in the officer's department, office or agency.

- iii. Conduct pertinent procedural studies or investigations of departments, offices, agencies and officers under his jurisdiction.
- iv. Prescribe accepted standards of administrative practice to be followed by all departments, offices and agencies..
- v. Perform such other duties as may be required by the charter.

Article IV – Administration

Subject: Reorganization and Consolidation of Administrative Functions under the Parish President

Abstract:

Reorganizes the administrative framework of Parish government by eliminating the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and transferring all associated powers, duties, and references to the Parish President. The amendment formalizes the Commission’s decision that the President shall serve as both the **chief executive and chief administrative officer** of the Parish government, consolidating executive and operational authority under a single elected official.

As part of this reorganization, all sections of the Charter referencing the “Chief Administrative Officer” are amended to reference the “Parish President.” Section 4-01 is revised to authorize the President to appoint an **Assistant Chief Administrative Officer** or other administrative aide to assist in the performance of executive and administrative duties. Sections 4-02 and 4-03 are repealed, with applicable duties relocated to **Section 3-10(B)** (Powers and Duties of the President).

This consolidation streamlines administrative oversight, enhances accountability, and reflects the practical realities of Parish governance under a full-time Parish President.

Proposed Amendment:

All sections of the St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter referencing the “Chief Administrative Officer” are hereby amended to read “Parish President.”

Sections 4-01 through 4-03 are amended as follows:

- **Section 4-01:** Retained and revised to authorize appointment of an Assistant Chief Administrative Officer who shall serve at the pleasure of the Parish President.
- **Section 4-02:** Repealed in its entirety.
- **Section 4-03:** Repealed; duties incorporated into **Section 3-10(B)** – Powers and Duties of the Parish President.

Section 8-01 – Council Districts

Subject: Deletion of Redundant Section

Abstract:

Removes Section 8-01 in its entirety. The section previously contained district configurations and transition provisions that are no longer applicable following the Commission's decision to establish a permanent structure of eight (8) single-member districts corresponding to the existing boundaries.

Proposed Amendment:

Deletes Section 8-01 (Council Districts) as redundant. The authority for defining and modifying council district boundaries is now fully incorporated into Section 2-01(A), which provides that the eight (8) existing districts shall remain as established at the time of the Charter's adoption unless and until modified by ordinance in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

Section 8-13 – Charter Ballot

Subject: Deletion of Obsolete Provision

Abstract:

Repeals Section 8-13, which contained the ballot language and multiple-choice structure used for the original 1984 adoption of the Home Rule Charter. This provision no longer has legal or practical relevance and is superseded by current Louisiana law governing the submission of home rule charters to voters.

Proposed Amendment:

Deletes Section 8-13 in its entirety. Future submission of the amended Charter shall conform to the procedures established under **Article VI, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution** and **R.S.**

33:1395–1395.1, as implemented by ordinance of the St. Mary Parish Council.