



## 2016 Ballot Proposal FACT SHEET

**Birmingham residents will be asked to vote on a citizen initiated ballot proposal to amend the City of Birmingham Charter on March 8, 2016 in conjunction with the Presidential primary election.**

**Why is there a local ballot proposal included in this election?** A petition was submitted by a group of City residents to change the City's Charter.

**What is on the March 8, 2016 ballot?** On March 8, 2016 voters are asked to participate in the national primary election for Presidential candidates, which includes the local ballot question. Birmingham voters can select one of three ballots for this election:

- 1) voters can select a Republican ballot which includes the Birmingham Charter amendment question, or
- 2) voters can select a Democratic ballot which includes the Birmingham Charter amendment question, or
- 3) voters can select a ballot with only the local Charter amendment question included.

To view a sample ballot, log on to [www.bhamgov.org/sampleballot](http://www.bhamgov.org/sampleballot)

**Why is a vote required on this citizen initiated ballot proposal?** The City Charter can only be changed by voter approval.

**What is the City Charter?** The City charter is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of the city government. It is comparable to the Constitution of the United States or a state's constitution. The charter is, therefore, the most important legal document of any city.

**What is the specific ballot language proposed?** Shall the Charter of the City of Birmingham, Michigan, be amended by adding a new Section 10 to Chapter XI entitled, "Maple Road" to state that "The configuration of Maple Road shall not be less than four (4) through traffic lanes, dedicated for motor vehicle use, between Cranbrook Road and Southfield Road and between Woodward Avenue and Eton Street."

**What impact will the ballot proposal have on the City?** If passed, this Charter amendment would require a charter amendment if lanes on Maple Road, in certain areas, are ever planned to be reconfigured to less than their current 4 lanes.

**Are there similar provisions to the proposed ballot language included in the City Charter concerning other roads in Birmingham?** No.

**Why would the City consider restriping Maple Road from four lanes to three lanes from Cranbrook to Southfield Road as outlined in the ballot language?** To comply with traffic engineering studies indicating safety can be improved, while maintaining efficient travel on West Maple from Cranbrook to Southfield Roads. For additional information on these studies you can visit [www.bhamgov.org/westmapletrial](http://www.bhamgov.org/westmapletrial).