



Ward 4 Council Seat Appointment Q & A

Q: How is a vacant seat filled?

The City Council will select someone to fill the vacancy in the position of Ward 4, according to Chapter IV, Section 20 of the Springfield Charter. The Charter is similar to a constitution for the City of Springfield and can be changed only with approval from Springfield voters. The Charter is available online at <http://www.qcode.us/codes/springfield/>.

Section 20. A vacancy in the Council or in the position of Mayor shall be filled by appointment by a majority of the Council. The appointee's term of office runs from the time of his or her qualification for the office after the appointment and shall continue until the beginning of the year following the next general biennial election and until a successor is qualified. The successor for the unexpired term shall be chosen at the next general biennial election after said appointment. During a Council member's disability to serve on the Council or during the member's excused absence from the City, a majority of the other members of the Council may by appointment fill the vacancy pro tem.

Q: Who can the City Council appoint to fill a Council seat?

The City Council must appoint someone who meets the minimum qualifications under the requirements of the Springfield Charter, Chapter VII, section 23. The minimum qualifications include residing within the City limits and not being a City employee – see the Charter for the full list of requirements. The City Council can decide any additional qualifications in selecting someone to fill the vacancy. Any City Council decisions will be made at a future public meeting.

Q: When will the City Council choose someone to fill the Ward 4 seat?

Interim Councilor Recruitment Schedule:

- February 21, 2023 – Public Hearing and Council approves vacancy process
- February 22 - March 22, 2023 – Advertise/Recruitment Period
- March 23, 2023 – Written Applications due to City Manager's Office
- April 3, 2023 – Council Work Session - Council decides by consensus the candidates for interview, interview questions and voting process
- April 17, 2023 – Work Sessions - Candidate interviews
- April 17, 2023 – Regular Session - Council deliberation
- April 17, 2023 – Regular Session - Interim Councilor appointment

Q: Can the City hold a special election earlier than 2024 to elect a new Councilor?

The Springfield Charter requires successors for vacant Council seats to be elected at the next general biennial election following the City Council's appointment of someone to fill the vacancy. The Charter does not allow the City to hold a special election for this purpose. Changes to the Charter must be approved by Springfield voters.