

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article X of the City Code to repeal outdated provisions pertaining to School Board appointments (1 of 2 readings)
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

Several provisions of the City Code relating to the composition and appointment of the City School Board are outdated and no longer reflect the City's governing structure. The Charlottesville School Board has been elected by the voters of the City since approximately 2006, and the City Charter was amended in 2020 to reflect that change. However, Sections 2-341 and 2-342 of the City Code still reference the prior system under which School Board members were appointed by City Council. The proposed ordinance repeals those obsolete provisions and recodifies the remaining reporting provision to maintain clarity and consistency within the Code.

Background / Rule

Historically, members of the Charlottesville School Board were appointed by City Council. Consistent with that structure, the City Code included provisions addressing the composition of the School Board, the appointment and terms of its members, and certain reporting responsibilities to City Council.

In 2006, the method of selecting School Board members changed from appointment to election by the voters of the City. The City's Charter was subsequently amended in 2020 to reflect that the School Board is elected. As a result, the provisions of City Code §§ 2-341 and 2-342, which address the appointment and composition of the School Board, no longer reflect the City's governing structure.

Section 2-343 of the City Code requires the School Board to submit to City Council an annual report of expenditures and an estimate of funds needed for the maintenance and growth of the public schools. This reporting requirement is consistent with the budgeting relationship between the School Board and the City under Virginia law.

The proposed ordinance repeals the outdated provisions relating to the appointment and composition of the School Board and recodifies the remaining reporting provision to maintain continuity within the City Code.

Analysis

The provisions currently codified in §§ 2-341 and 2-342 reflect a governance structure that no longer exists. Because the Charlottesville School Board is elected rather than appointed, those sections are outdated and potentially confusing to readers of the City Code. Repealing these provisions will align the Code with the City Charter and the City's current governmental structure.

Section 2-343, however, establishes an annual reporting obligation for the School Board to provide the City Council with a report of expenditures and an estimate of funds needed for the maintenance and

growth of the public schools. That reporting requirement remains consistent with the budgeting relationship between the School Board and the City and continues to serve a useful purpose. The proposed ordinance therefore retains that provision and recodifies it to maintain continuity within the Code.

Overall, the proposed amendments are administrative in nature and are intended to improve the clarity and accuracy of the City Code.

Financial Impact

The proposed ordinance is a housekeeping amendment to the City Code and will have no fiscal impact on the City.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council adopt the proposed ordinance repealing §§ 2-341 and 2-342 of the City Code and recodifying § 2-343 as § 2-341 in order to remove outdated provisions and ensure the City Code accurately reflects the City's current governance structure

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Move to adopt the ordinance repealing City Code §§ 2-341 and 2-342 and recodifying § 2-343 as § 2-341 to remove outdated provisions relating to the appointment of School Board members and to ensure the City Code reflects the City's current governance structure.

Optional: I further move that City Council waive the requirement for a second reading of this ordinance and that it take effect immediately upon adoption.

Attachments

1. Ordinance Amending Chapter X of the City Code