

## **NOTICE OF CITY OF HOUGHTON CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSALS TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025, GENERAL ELECTION**

On June 11, 2025 the City Council for the City of Houghton unanimously passed Resolution 2025-1985, Resolution 2025-1986, Resolution 2025-1987, and Resolution 2025-1988, proposing four Amendments to the City of Houghton Charter pursuant to Section 11.13 of the Charter and Section 21(1) of the Home Rules City Act, MCL 117.21, to be voted upon at the November 4, 2025, election. Complete copies of the Resolutions and the full text of the Charter Amendments are available online at <https://www.cityofhoughton.com> and at the Houghton City Office, located at 616 Shelden Ave # 102, Houghton, MI 49931. In addition, copies of the Resolutions and Charter Amendments will be available at all polling places. The Proposals to be voted upon at the November 4, 2025, election are summarized as follows:

### **CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL NO. 1**

#### Amendment to the City of Houghton Charter

It is proposed that the City of Houghton Charter be amended to change all gender specific terminology to gender neutral terms, making it clear that the Charter applies equally to all persons regardless of gender.

### **CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL NO. 2**

#### Amendment to the City of Houghton Charter Section 2.9 Conflict of Interest

It is proposed that this section be amended to (1) prohibit private gain by public officials and employees, specify events that create a potential conflict of interest, require officials and employees to notify the clerk of potential conflicts of interest, and prohibit officials or employees from participating in or voting or acting upon any potential conflict (excepting employment agreements and any action where a public official or employee receives a benefit as a member of the public); and (2) require the city council to create a conflict of interest ordinance.

### **CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL NO. 3**

#### Amendment to the City of Houghton Charter Section 2.6 Filling Vacancies

It is proposed that this section be amended to change the appointment period from 30 to 60 days for the city council to fill a vacancy in the office of a city council member, but if a vacancy is not filled within 60 days, to require that the election authorities call a special election to fill the vacancy at the next regular state election date; while permitting vacancies occurring within 90 days of the next regular city election to be filled at that election.

Shall the amendment as proposed be adopted?

### **CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL NO. 4**

#### Amendment to the City of Houghton Charter Section 3.2 Biennial and Special Elections

It is proposed that this section be amended to remove the requirement for concurrence by the county elections scheduling committee for special elections, the requirement that a special election

be called at least 45 days in advance of the election, and to allow for special elections to be held when called by resolution of the city council in accordance with state authorized elections dates.