



Independent and Third-Party Municipal Candidates

**City Council Election Reform Task Force
April 8, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.**

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- **Broken Arrow, OK**
- **St. Louis, MO**
- **Tucson, AZ**

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Arizona Daily Star

Judge tosses city's system of partisan elections

Rhonda Bodfield Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Friday, March 5, 2010 12:00 am

Unless the city appeals a Superior Court ruling, you can say goodbye to seeing D's and R's next to names on the city ballot.

And no longer can you weigh in on races for council wards across town. You'll vote in your own ward, and that's it.

A ruling Thursday by Superior Court Judge Michael Miller sided with the state Attorney General's Office, which argued the state needs uniform elections. Attorneys for the state also argued the current system disenfranchises voters because a candidate can win his or her own ward but lose citywide.

Former Republican state Sen. Jonathan Paton, who sponsored the legislation, predicted the change will "get people to focus on potholes and police enforcement instead of on partisan politics."

The city, however, argued that state lawmakers shouldn't be able to trump local control.

Rank	City	State	Population	Form of Government	Elections
1	New York	NY	8,008,278	Mayor-Council	Partisan
2	Los Angeles	CA	3,694,820	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
3	Chicago	IL	2,896,016	Mayor-Council	Partisan
4	Houston	TX	1,953,631	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
5	Philadelphia	PA	1,517,550	Mayor-Council	Partisan
6	Phoenix	AZ	1,321,045	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
7	San Diego	CA	1,223,400	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
8	Dallas	TX	1,188,580	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
9	San Antonio	TX	1,144,646	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
10	Detroit	MI	951,270	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
11	San Jose	CA	894,943	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
12	Indianapolis	IN	791,926	Mayor-Council	Partisan
13	San Francisco	CA	776,733	Mayor-Council	Partisan
14	Jacksonville	FL	735,617	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
15	Columbus	OH	711,470	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
16	Austin	TX	656,562	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
17	Baltimore	MD	651,154	Mayor-Council	Partisan
18	Memphis	TN	650,100	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
19	Milwaukee	WI	596,974	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
20	Boston	MA	589,141	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
21	Washington	DC	572,059	Mayor-Council	Partisan
22	Nashville-Davidson	TN	569,891	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
23	El Paso	TX	563,662	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
24	Seattle	WA	563,374	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
25	Denver	CO	554,636	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
26	Charlotte	NC	540,828	Council-Manager	Partisan
27	Fort Worth	TX	534,694	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
28	Portland	OR	529,121	Mayor-Council	Nonpartisan
29	Oklahoma City	OK	506,132	Council-Manager	Nonpartisan
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Tulsa

Charter Art. VI Sec. 3.2. – Independent Candidates

“The Declaration of Candidacy of the independent candidate shall have attached a supporting petition which shall be signed by at least three hundred (300) qualified electors from the city at large if the independent candidate seeks the office of Mayor or City Auditor or from the election district if the independent candidate seeks the office of Councilor from an election district.”

Tulsa

Third Parties

26 O.S. 1-108 – “petitions seeking recognition of a political party, in a form to be prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board, shall be filed with such Secretary, bearing the signatures of registered voters equal to at least five percent (5%) of the total votes cast in the last General Election either for Governor or for electors for President and Vice President.”

This would have required 46,323 votes in the 2006 Governor election and 73,133 votes in the 2008 Presidential election.

Petition Requirements

	Independent Candidate	Third Party
Broken Arrow	none	5% of vote in last election for Governor or President
St. Louis	2% of vote in last election for mayor	5% of vote in last election for Governor
New York	Mayor – 7,500 City Council – 2,700	50,000 votes in last election for Governor
Charlotte	4% of registered voters qualified to vote for that office	2% of vote in last election for Governor
Baltimore	4% of registered voters qualified to vote for that office (at least 250)	10,000 registered voters
Indianapolis	2% of vote in city or district in last election for secretary of state	10% of vote in last election for secretary of state

