

CHAPTER 1097
SPECIAL CHARTER CITIES NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS
S.F. 578

AN ACT authorizing certain special charter cities to adopt by election a nonpartisan form of city election.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 43.112, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1981, is amended to read as follows:

This chapter shall, so far as applicable, govern the nominations of candidates by political parties for all offices to be filled by a direct vote of the people in cities acting under a special charter in 1973 and having a population of over fifty thousand, except all such cities as adopt a plan of municipal government which specifically provides for a nonpartisan primary election choose by special election to conduct nonpartisan city elections under the provisions of chapter 44, 45, or 376. An election on the question of conducting city elections in such a special charter city on a nonpartisan basis may be called by the city council on its own initiative, and shall be called by the council upon receipt of a petition of the voters which so requests and is presented in conformity with section 362.4, but a special election on that question shall be held concurrently with any election being held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of any odd-numbered year.

Sec. 2. Section 376.3, Code 1981, is amended to read as follows:

376.3 NOMINATIONS. Candidates for elective city offices must be nominated as provided in sections 376.4 to 376.9 unless by ordinance a city chooses the provisions of chapters 44 or 45. However, a special charter city may city acting under a special charter in 1973 and having a population of over fifty thousand shall continue to hold partisan elections as provided in sections 43.112 to 43.118 and 420.126 to 420.137 unless the city by election as provided in section 43.112 chooses to conduct city elections under this chapter or chapter 44 or 45. The choice of one of these options by such a special charter city does not otherwise affect the validity of the city's charter. However, special charter cities which choose to exercise the option to conduct nonpartisan city elections may choose in the same manner the original decision was made, to resume holding city elections on a partisan basis.

Sec. 3. Section 420.137, Code 1981, is amended to read as follows:

420.137 APPLICABLE LAWS. All laws ~~or other provisions of the Code~~ governing political parties and the nomination of candidates in elections shall, as far as applicable, govern the political parties and nomination and election of candidates in cities acting under a special charter ~~which has in 1973 and having a population of fifty thousand or more, except where~~ such a city by election chooses to conduct city elections under chapter 44, 45, or 376.

Approved April 22, 1982