

## CITY COUNCIL POLICY

Policy 38  
August 18, 2020

### **Subject: Advisory Election Prior to the Demolition of Century II Performing Arts Center or Wichita Central Public Library**

On July 10, 2020, the Wichita City Clerk was presented with petitions seeking the adoption of an ordinance which would require a binding public vote prior to Century II, the Wichita Central Public Library or any other prominent public building of “architectural or historic significance” from being demolished, leased, sold or remodeled in any manner which would “adversely affect” the building. Over 17,000 voters signed the petitions.

On July 13, 2020, the Wichita Historical Preservation Board accepted a nomination to place Century II and the Wichita Public Central Library building on the Register of Historic Places and the National Registry of Historic Places.

In 1961, Wichita voters approved \$12.6 million on bonds for a civic center, later to be named Century II.

Subject to future acts of the legislature, municipal governments may not call for a binding election unless such election is authorized by state statute.

Based on the above considerations, it is the Council's intent to enact a policy consistent with the spirit and intent of the ordinance requested by the Save Century II petitioners, while remaining in compliance with provisions and dictates of state law.

The City Council values community input into the continuous improvement of the City's downtown core. In this regard, it is the intent and policy of the City Council, pursuant to its Home Rule Authority, to request of the Sedgwick County Election Officer an advisory election before any demolition of Century II Performing Arts Center or the Wichita Public Central Library occurs.

It is not the intent of this policy to limit the number of questions or issues, which may be posed to the voters, as part of any such advisory election, regarding the financing, proposed uses or development plans regarding Century II Performing Arts Center or the Wichita Public Central Library.

Further, it is not the intent of this policy to require an advisory election to repair or demolish the Century II Performing Arts Center or the Wichita Public Central Library, if such building is significantly damaged by fire, tornado, earthquake, windstorm, lightning, or other natural or manmade cause(s) and the building has been deemed by the Wichita City Council to not be structurally sound or to be unfit for public use. Such determination shall be based on an assessment conducted by Public Works personnel and/or a qualified professional engineer.

As used in this policy, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Century II Performing Arts Center is defined as the circular structure with the large, blue domed roof located at 225 West Douglas, including any improvements or fixtures, whether above or below ground, including the foundation and footings, utility installations, storage, loading facilities, sidewalks, driveways and all fixtures, appliances, sound systems, elevators, and equipment of any kind affixed or attached to the building used in connection with the general operation and public use of the building. The term is not intended to include the Convention Hall (Bob Brown Exposition Hall) or the Expo Hall promenade level to the Hyatt Hotel.

”Demolition” is defined as “the dismantling, razing, destroying or wrecking of a building or structure.”