

2026 Hawai'i County Charter Questions

What a YES vote and a NO vote mean

Neutral voter reference guide

This guide summarizes the practical effect of the approved 2026 Hawai'i County Charter question. It is intended as a plain-language reference and does not advocate for either choice.

Reading tip: A YES vote adopts the proposed Charter change. A NO vote leaves the Charter unchanged on that question.

Question 1: County Auditor personnel authority and deputy

BALLOT QUESTION *Shall the Hawai'i County Charter be amended to clarify that the County Auditor has the same power with respect to employees within the Office of the County Auditor as department heads in the executive branch and to specify that the County Auditor may appoint a deputy?*

YES

A YES vote expressly gives the County Auditor the same authority over employees in the Auditor's office that executive-branch department heads have over their employees. It also expressly permits the Auditor to appoint a deputy when the County Council has appropriated funding for the position.

NO

A NO vote leaves the current Charter language in place. The Auditor may hire necessary staff for which the Council has appropriated funds, but the Charter would not add the explicit department-head authority or specifically authorize a deputy.

Source and scope note

Sources: Hawai'i County Ordinance 26-47 and Resolution 605-26, adopted to place the County Auditor amendment on the 2026 General Election ballot. The ballot-question wording controls; the YES and NO descriptions are neutral plain-language summaries.