

**SURVEY OF CHARTER PROVISIONS  
REGARDING VACANCIES ON COUNCIL**

CITY	REFERENCE	PROVISION
Murfreesboro	Charter §§ <a href="#">11</a> , <a href="#">18</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by council appointment and serves until next election. Elected mayor serves remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by council appointment and serves until next regular election. Elected member serves remainder of term.</li> </ul>
<b>Home Rule/Metro Municipalities</b>		
Chattanooga	Charter §§ <a href="#">8.30</a> , <a href="#">8.11</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Chairperson of council serves as interim mayor, stepping down from council seat, and serves until next regular election if election within 90 to 120 days. If no regular election scheduled in that timeframe, special election is called. Elected mayor serves remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by council appointment and serves until next regular election, unless general statute requires earlier election. Vacancy created by chairperson filling mayor vacancy is not filled.</li> </ul>
Johnson City	Charter §§ <a href="#">23</a> , <a href="#">25</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by mayor pro tem for unexpired term.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by appointment of Board until next general election. Elected member fills unexpired term.</li> </ul>
Knoxville	Charter § <a href="#">705</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by acting mayor selected by council among members until special election held within 90 days, unless within 10 months of next regular election. Elected or selected mayor serves remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by council appointment (six members) within 30 days of vacancy and serves until the next regular election</li> </ul>
Memphis	<a href="#">Ord. 1852</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by chairperson of council for 20 days, then by appointment of majority of council (but not a member of council) until mayor elected in next regular or municipal election.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by council appointment within 30 days of vacancy. Appointed member serves until next August or November municipal election.</li> </ul>
Nashville	Charter, § <a href="#">15.03</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Vice mayor fills until special or general election</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by special election for unexpired term of vacant district council seat if more than 12 months to next general metro election. Vacant vice mayor or at-large seat remains unfilled until next general election; special election prohibited.</li> </ul>

**Private Act Municipalities**

[*Note.* Certain terms of replacement officials and election provisions may be preempted by T.C.A. § 6-53-107, [summarized below](#), which mandates the election process for vacancies in certain municipalities]

Bartlett	Charter, art III, § <a href="#">7</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor Vacancy: Filled by vice mayor until next November city election. Elected mayor serves remainder of term.</li> <li>· Board Vacancy: Filled by board appointment and serves until next city November election. Vice-mayor vacancy filled by mayoral appointment and serves remainder of term.</li> </ul>
Bristol	Charter, §§ <a href="#">2-6</a> , <a href="#">2-9</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor Vacancy: Filled by vice mayor for remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by council appointment within 30 days (mayor casts deciding vote in event of a tie) and serves until next regular city election.</li> </ul>
Clarksville	Charter, art. II, § <a href="#">7,8</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by mayor pro tem until next city election</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by council appointment and serves until next city election.</li> </ul>
Cleveland	Charter, art. IV, §§ <a href="#">2,7</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor Vacancy: Filled by vice mayor for remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by council appointment and serves until next regular election. Elected member serves remainder of term. If vacancy not filled within 30 days, county election commission to call special election.</li> </ul>
Collierville	Charter, § <a href="#">4.12</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor Vacancy: Filled by vice mayor until appointment made by board among aldermen within 30 days of vacancy. If more than two years remaining in term and more than 10 days from next biennial election, filled by election for remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by board appointment. If more than two years remaining in term and more than 10 days from next biennial election vacancy, filled by election for remaining term. If three or more vacancies or vacancy more than 30 days, county election board to call a special election.</li> </ul>
Columbia	Charter §§ <a href="#">2.10</a> , <a href="#">2.11</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by vice mayor for remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by council appointment if not more than three appointed members. If more than three appointed members, filled by special election. Serve until next regular municipal election.</li> </ul>
Cookville	Charter, §§ <a href="#">2.04</a> , <a href="#">2.09</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by vice mayor (mayor and vice mayor elected by council among its members).</li> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by council appointment and serves remainder of term.</li> </ul>
Franklin	Charter, art. IV, § <a href="#">5</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor Vacancy: Filled by vice mayor; serves until next regular election. Elected mayor serves remainder of term.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by council appointment, or by special election, or by other means allowed by state law. Method selected by majority vote.</li> </ul>
Gallatin	Charter, art. III, §§ <a href="#">2, 10</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor Vacancy: Filled by mayor pro tem until next regular election and serves remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by council appointment; serves until next regular election. Elected member serves remainder of term.</li> </ul>
Germantown	Charter §§ <a href="#">4.11</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by vice mayor for remainder of term if within six month of next biennial election; otherwise, filled by vice mayor until next biennial election and serve for two years if remainder of term would not expire within year of election or four years if remainder of term within year of election.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by council appointment for remainder of term unless two members are appointed; in which case a special election called, unless unexpired term is within six months of next city general election.</li> </ul>
Jackson	Charter § <a href="#">3</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by vice mayor until special election held within 60 days, unless within 60 days of regular election. Elected mayor serves remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council Vacancy: Filled by council appointment (75%) and serves until next regular election.</li> </ul>
Kingsport	Charter, art. III, §§ <a href="#">10, 11</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by vice mayor for remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by appointment with majority vote of council within 30 days unless two members appointed, then filled by special election.</li> </ul>
Smyrna	Charter, §§ <a href="#">5.02, 5.07</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mayor vacancy: Filled by vice mayor for remainder of term.</li> <li>· Council vacancy: Filled by council appointment. If vacancy left unfilled for 60 days, special election called by county election commission unless less than one year from regular election.</li> </ul>

**Summary of T.C.A. § 6-53-107**

In cities with a population greater than 100,000 that are in counties with population of more than 200,000 (except a metropolitan form of government), any council appointment to fill a vacancy is valid only until the next primary or general election or referendum. The elected member serves the remainder of the unexpired term. This statute preempts any private act unless the city’s charter provides for a special election, in which case the charter controls.