

**North Omaha Turnback Tax Grant
2026 Report**

June 30, 2026

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
Room 2018
Nebraska State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. Metzler,

Attached, please find the report submitted by the “North Omaha ‘Turnback Tax’ Grant Committee,” in fulfillment of the annual reporting requirements outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-2610. This report includes:

- (i) A description of the projects that were funded during the most recently completed calendar year (p. 2);
- (ii) A description of where such projects were located (p. 2-3);
- (iii) A description of the outcomes of such projects (p. 4); and
- (iv) A ten-year strategic plan (p. 5-11).

Sincerely,

The North Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Committee

Commissioner Chris Rodgers
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Councilwoman LaVonya Goodwin
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Senator Terrell McKinney
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*This document submitted electronically via Agency Submission Report form at
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/agencies/index.php>*

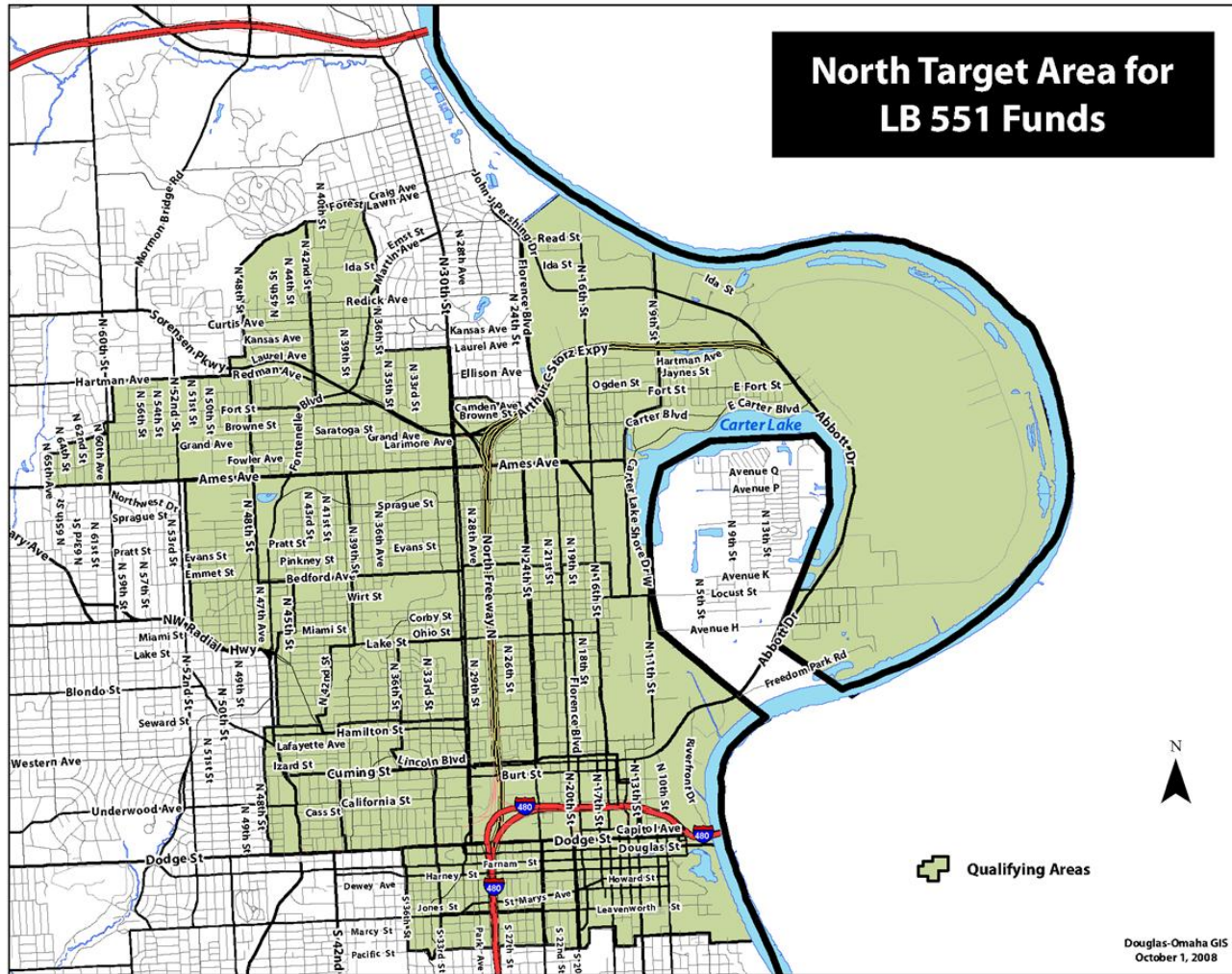
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Table 1:
2024-25 Award Summary

	Organization	Award Amount	Project Title	Mailing Address	City
1	A Nurses Touch Home Healthcare	\$ 3,000	A Nurses Touch Home Healthcare Power Forward	1299 Farnam St Ste 300	Omaha
2	B Licious Treats LLC	\$ 7,000	Taste Of Opportunity	2103 Spencer st	Omaha
3	Bemis Park Citizen Patrol	\$ 2,000	Bemis Park Citizen Patrol Safety Initiative	1019 N 38 St	Omaha
4	Busy Vegan	\$ 9,000	Busy Vegan	3815 N 19th St	Omaha
5	CoreScience BioDiagnostics	\$ 9,000	CoreScience BioDiagnostics Labs	4416 Ruggles St	Omaha
6	Destruction Dance Drill Team	\$ 5,000	Destruction Drillteam Outreach	3315 Miami st	Omaha
7	Doll House Fashions	\$ 8,000	Doll House Fashions	2310 N 24th St Suite 2	Omaha
8	Doula Kompanion LLC	\$ 6,000	Doula Entrepreneurship Development and Youth Mentorship Initiative	7063 Crown Point Ave.	Omaha
9	FOTS Families of the Stolen	\$ 6,000	2nd Annual Gone, But Not Forgotten Community Walk	4138 Burdette Street	Omaha
10	Georgias House of Hope	\$ 5,000	Georgia's House of Hope - Community That Cares Educational Initiative	6513 Boyd St	Omaha
11	Grace365	\$ 5,000	Grace365 ReEntry	1299 Farnam st	Omaha
12	HALLINS Corporations	\$ 10,000	LOVAM Jazz Festival	3515 Fontenelle Blvd	Omaha
13	Harambee Group	\$ 9,000	Harambee Concrete	2406 Fowler ave suite 318	Omaha
14	Hello Joy Inc	\$ 5,000	Hello Joy Support Initiative	5065 Vernon Cir	Omaha
15	Island Chill	\$ 10,000	Business/Community Empowerment	1120 N 20th apt 206	Omaha
16	Jims Rib Haven Inc	\$ 8,000	Jims Rib Haven Remodel	3801 Ames Ave	Omaha
17	Leaders to Legends	\$ 10,000	PARENT UNIVERSITY	P O Box 12164	Omaha
18	Li La LeV Boutique, LLC	\$ 3,000	Li La Le V Boutique Expansion	P.O. Box 803	Omaha
19	LIIT Ladies in Information Technology Pathways	\$ 6,796	LIIT Ladies in Information Technology	2120 Sprague St	Omaha
20	Lot 24 LLC	\$ 7,000	Lot 24 Phase 1	1916 Binney Street	Omaha
21	Maid For You Solutions LLC	\$ 5,500	Post Construction Cleanup Expansion Project	2107 Spencer St	Omaha
22	MAYS Foundation	\$ 10,000	Hood to the Woods	5020 Grand Ave	Omaha
23	Native Omaha Days Organizing Committee	\$ 10,000	Native Omaha Days/Family Fun Day	2221 North 24 Street	Omaha
24	Optimum Commercial Cleaning Limited Liability Company	\$ 3,000	Startup for Optimum Commercial Cleaning	3400 Maplewood Blvd	Omaha
25	Peak Tax & Accounting	\$ 6,000	Financial Awareness Literacy and Leadership	5632 N 28TH AVE	Omaha
26	POC Collaborative Community Resource Center	\$ 5,000	Popcorn Ball Church Preservation Awareness and Community Engagement	PO Box 11515	Omaha
27	Polendo Business Development, LLC	\$ 3,000	The Inspired and Ambitious Business Workshop Series	416 Walnut st	Omaha
28	Sweet Meatz LLC	\$ 5,000	Sweet Meatz Dessert Bar on wheels	12836 Deauville Dr	Omaha
29	Tender Composure Inc	\$ 5,000	Tender Composure Inc	3845 Franklin St	Omaha
30	Terrins Closet LLC	\$ 2,000	Terri's Closet TRIBE Caregivers Group	5203 N 53rd Street	Omaha
31	The Jamii Project	\$ 5,000	Butterflies In Me Book Project	231 Benton Street	Council Bluffs
32	The Joy Ambition	\$ 5,000	Juneteenth JoyFest	8004 Farnam Dr, Apt 517	Omaha
33	The Keys Foundation	\$ 6,000	Confidently Me Mentorship Program	PO Box 31594	Omaha
34	The Union for Contemporary Art	\$ 10,000	2025 Exhibition & Performing Arts Seasons	2423 N 24th St	Omaha
35	U.N.T.A.M.E.D. LLC	\$ 10,000	20 Weeks of Sunday Dinner	4718 Kansas Ave	Omaha
36	Urban Financial Services Coalition Omaha Chapter	\$ 3,515	Small Business Is Real Business Simulation	6155 Ogden St	Omaha
37	VIABLE HEALING LLC	\$ 10,000	Restorative Justice Victim Impact/Empathy	2403 n 18th street	Omaha
	TOTAL	\$237,811			

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Note: Addresses listed in Table 1 are provided by applicant organization and do not necessarily encompass site(s) of project activities. Funds are distributed to areas with a high concentration of poverty and recipients eligible for funding complete projects in the target area highlighted in the map below.



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2024-25 Award Final Reports

Final reports submitted by 2024-25 grant recipients are available electronically via the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BU818WSSFOQlIH_XmQkZmQgOqAli-MwM?usp=sharing

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Committee Strategic Plan

I. Purpose

Nebraska’s Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act provides that ten percent of the collected tax funds “turned back” to the City of Omaha from the State of Nebraska shall be equally distributed to areas with a high concentration of poverty. An “area with a high concentration of poverty,” is defined as an area within the corporate limits of a city of the metropolitan class consisting of one or more contiguous census tracts, as determined by the most recent American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, which contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty percent, and all census tracts contiguous to such tract or tracts, as determined by the most recent American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate. Until a statutory change in 2025, the most recent federal decennial census served as the source of data defining the area with a high concentration of poverty. Historically, census data designated two distinct geographic areas in Omaha that meet the definition: “North” and “South” regions, respectively. Per statute, each area shall establish a development fund and form a committee which shall identify and research potential projects to be completed in the target area and make final determinations on the use of the funds received for such projects. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate data expanded and merged the two historical geographic areas; however, existing committees agreed to remain two administratively separate entities. This document pertains specifically to the practices and strategies of the Turnback Tax Grant Committee serving the region in North Omaha.

Nebraska’s Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act further provides that funds shall be used for three purposes: to 1) showcase important historical aspects of an area with a high concentration of poverty, 2) assist with the reduction of street and gang violence in such areas, or 3) assist with small business and entrepreneurship growth in such areas. The Act stipulates that 55% of the funds shall be allocated for the first two purposes while 45% shall be allocated for the third purpose.

The North Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Committee’s strategic plan documents the Committee’s practices, responsibilities, and targets to uphold the purposes of the funds distributed in eligible areas in the community of North Omaha.

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II. Roles and Responsibilities

The North Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Committee is responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and awarding grant applications and reports on an annual basis. Statute dictates the Committee's membership to consist of four voting members and one non-voting member:

A. The member of the city council whose district includes a majority of the census tracts which each contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty percent.

Councilmember LaVonya Goodwin, representative of District 2, fills this appointment upon her inauguration to the Omaha City Council in June 2025.

B. The commissioner of the county whose district includes a majority of the census tracts which each contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty percent.

Douglas County Commissioner Chris Rodgers, representative of District 3, has filled this appointment since his election to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners in 2005.

C. Two residents of the area with high concentration of poverty, appointed by the aforementioned two members of the committee, shall be appointed for four year terms.

Inaugural Resident Committee Members were solicited in September 2021 and applications were accepted through October 12. Candidates were interviewed by committee members in a public meeting held on November 1, 2021. Ernest White and Rodney Johnson were selected to serve as resident members and public notice of the appointments was made November 12, 2021 and their terms have concluded. The Committee will seek to appoint resident members, again, in 2026.

D. The member of the Legislature whose district includes a majority of the census tracts which each contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty percent.

Senator Terrell McKinney, representative of District 11, fills this nonvoting committee appointment.

Each member attends meetings of the North Omaha Turnback Tax Committee and participates in the review of grant applications, reports, and the planning and development of other activities and documents, in coordination with administrative staff.

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III. Historical Approach

Generally, the North Omaha Turnback Tax Committee prepares a grant application document to be released to the public in early fall, in conjunction with hosting a public hearing to solicit project ideas from the public. After applications have been received, committee members individually receive applications for review and then gather as a group to make the final determination regarding the annual distribution of funding to such projects. Applicants are notified about their award status in winter and then staff process award payments for recipients. Recipients submit interim and final reports regarding their funded projects. Unique factors, including limitations to public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, the appointment of new Committee members, and changes to statutory guidance have, on occasion, impacted the timeline of these annual activities.

Since the Committee's inception, application documents were submitted in paper form and copies were divided and distributed in paper form to each Committee member, while two sets of copies were retained for staff purposes. In 2022, applicants uploaded and submitted their applications through an online webform. Since 2023, grant applications have been submitted using an online portal, which allows for applicants to save their progress over time and prepares applications in a uniform document format for reviewers. Applicants completed fields in a webform and uploaded the completed grant application document and supporting documentation as attachments to the form. Applications were organized by staff into a digital drive and Committee members received a direct link to the drive to review all materials submitted by applicants. All recipient reports and other resources are also added to these cloud-based electronic files and all materials are available continuously to all committee members.

IV. 2026 – 2027 Approach

The committee has not yet set a timeline to release the annual grant application and hold a public hearing for the 2026-27 grant cycle. It is anticipated a timeline will generally align with prior timelines, with an application released by early fall and the public hearing scheduled in tandem with the release. The public will be made aware of the meeting and application availability at minimum via notice in *The Daily Record*, posted notices on the City and Douglas County websites, an email to recipients from the previous cycle, and other methods of notification outlined in statute. This hearing may be made available for virtual participation by members of the public.

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Applications will be accepted for approximately five weeks. During that time, the application will be available online via the City and Douglas County websites.

Once the application period closes, the committee will receive applications to review individually and then gather in 1-3 public meetings to review collectively and make the final determination regarding the annual distribution of funding. These meetings will also be publicly noticed via *The Daily Record*, and the City and Douglas County websites and may be made available for virtual participation by members of the public.

After the final meeting, applicants will be contacted regarding the outcome of their application and official notice of award is anticipated to be issued by the end of December 2026. Recipient award details and applicant documentation will be provided to the City of Omaha's Finance Department for the preparation of award checks for disbursement in the first calendar quarter of 2027.

This upcoming cycle, the Committee continues to refine the content of the application, particularly in terms of gathering relevant information for specific applicant types (e.g., nonprofit vs. business). The application is now implemented as a fully digital, web-based application form accessible by portal login. The Committee intends to continue refining the online application process while also developing a similar process whereby interim and final reports may be submitted by recipients in the same portal as the application. Administrative staff works closely with the city-county information technology team to improve the technical aspects of the application and report processes. In making changes to the application and reporting process, the Committee weighs considerations, including accessibility for prospective applicants, streamlined administrative activities, ease of access for reviewers, and reduction of waste.

The volume of grant applications submitted to the North Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Committee has increased significantly (see: Chart 1) while the amount of funds available for allocation has not grown at the same rate (see: Chart 2).

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Chart 1.

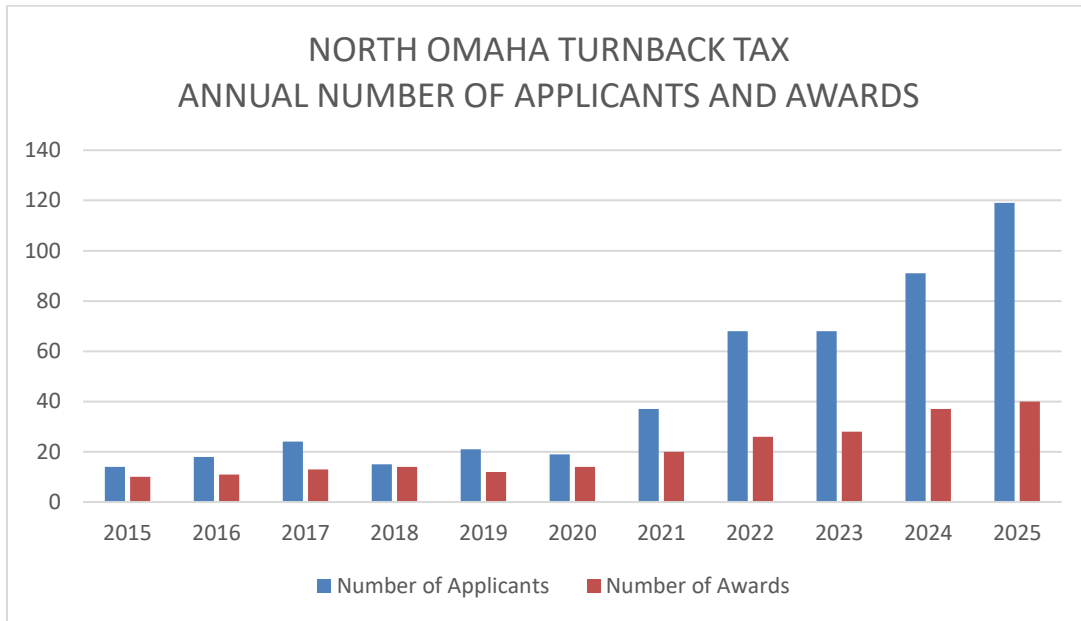
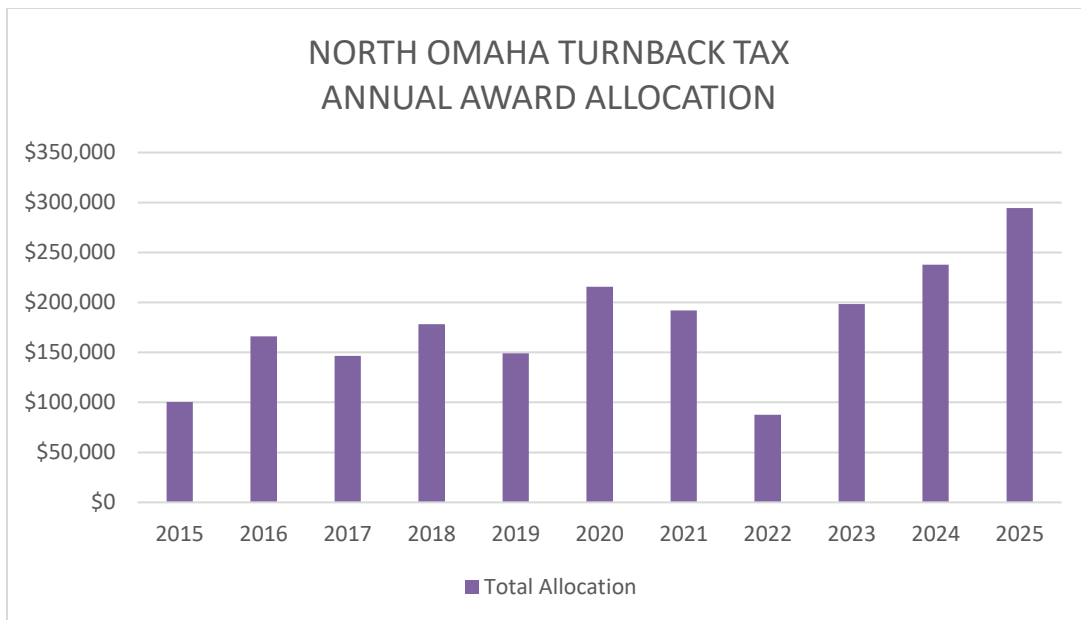


Chart 2.



For example, \$294,602 in 2025 represented the highest grant award allocation made by the North Omaha Turnback Tax Committee, an increase of 193% from the allocation in 2015 (\$100,500). However, 119 applicants requested funds in 2025, which was a 750% increase over 2015’s 14 applicants. The Committee made 40 awards, which is 300% greater than the 10 awards made in 2015. In other words,

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grant funds have become much more competitive to receive. Approximately one in three applicants in 2025 received an award while, a decade before, 71% of applicants received an award. As this pacing continues, the Committee is challenged to distribute limited funds among many worthy applicants and, further, to make awards per the statutorily-required distribution (45% allocated for businesses and entrepreneurship and 55% allocated for historical and violence reduction purposes) even when overall requests may not be similarly proportioned.

The Committee generally caps maximum individual award amounts and continues to examine processes to effectively and efficiently review applications and make awards. In particular, the Committee has discussed formalizing and implementing application evaluation criteria to align with funding priorities and compliance with statutory eligibility.

The Committee and staff work to revise processes to comply with the many administrative requirements introduced by legislation in recent years. For example, as discussed in this report's section *I. Purpose*, statutory changes to the data source defining areas "with a high concentration of poverty," (via LB355 in 2025) require an annual revision of maps with potential each year to change the composition of committee members and grant eligibility (though, likely, shifts will be marginal year to year). Most recently, LB 852 (2026) allows for recapture of funds for award recipients that fail to maintain their principal place of business or primary operations within the eligible area within three years of award, necessitating review of the practical mechanics of post-award monitoring for multiple cumulative cycles of recipients and collection of any such recaptured funds.

V. Strategic Goals

The Committee shall solicit project ideas from the public and shall hold a public hearing in the area with a high concentration of poverty. The committee shall research potential projects and make the final determination regarding the annual distribution of funding to such projects. The Committee shall distribute appropriated funds in areas with a high concentration of poverty to showcase important historical aspects of such areas, to assist with the reduction of street and gang violence in such areas, and to assist with small business and entrepreneurship growth in such areas and shall observe statutorily dictated proportions of said funding distribution. The Committee shall ensure awards meet community needs and are responsive to the statutory charge by reviewing reports and maintaining regular communications with recipients and shall annually review recipients to determine whether

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consecutive funding limit has been reached and whether project is eligible for continued funding based on the statutory criteria. Additionally, the Committee shall conduct an annual review of any amendments to the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act and Committee members shall be (re)elected and (re)appointed, according to their election cycle and term limits.