

**Charter Commission Public Hearing
May 10, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Attendance

Commissioners					
Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Amira Streeter	Y		Debbie Kitchin	Y	
Andrew Speer	Y		Debra Porta		Y
Anthony Castaneda		Y	Gloria Cruz		Y
Becca Uherbelau	Y		Hanna Osman	Y	
Brenda Ketah		Y	Melanie Billings-Yun	Y	
Bryan Williams Lewis	Y		Raahi Reddy		Y
Candace Avalos	Y		Robin Ye	Y	
Dave Galat	Y		Salome Chimuku	Y	
David Chen	Y		Vadim Mozyrsky		Y
David Knowles	Y		Yasmin Ibarra		Y

Staff Present			
Julia Meier	Brandy Steffen (JLA)	Diana Shiplet	Sofia Alvarez-Castro
Diana Nunez	Travis Ruhmorh (JLA)		

Welcome

Brandy welcomed the group and provided meeting logistics.

Commissioner Williams Lewis welcomed participants and provided an overview of the Charter Commission Process.

Commissioner Ye gave a presentation of the currently proposed reforms.

Public Comment

Sol Mara – Representing the Collocation of Communities of Color (CCC). CCC hosted a series of educational community listening sessions. Themes heard most were 1) Portlanders face many barriers to participating in elections, 2) city government is not adequately responding to community needs, and 3) Portlanders are ready for a change in form of government and elections. They were supportive of ranked choice voting, district-based elections, and a form of government in which day to day operations are not run by commissioners. CCC agrees with the proposed package of reforms and appreciates that the commission listened to Portlanders while developing their recommendations.

Anna Heinrich – Stated she was here to testify as a supporter for Ranked Choice Voting. There are three reasons for her support. First, it saves everyone time and money by eliminating the need for a primary election. Second, campaigns become about the issues and not about smear campaign because if a candidate cannot be someone's first choice, they want to work to be their second choice. Third, government trust can be increased with ranked choice voting. She stated that studies have shown that trust in government increases with voting opportunities such as ranked choice voting.

Amy Dudley – Provided information about her history as a neighborhood organizer. Stated that for too long city government has shied away from committing to neighborhood-scale democracy. The proposal for geographic-based representation selected by ranked choice voting will provide towards better representation. She stated that having multi-member districts means her family could support someone in their neighborhood, someone who is a parent and understands the needs of children, and also support a candidate who is young and committed to climate action. There would be enough room to represent more of who Portland residents are and what they believe in.

Taffy Everts – Stated she agrees with the three recommendations outlined in the recent Charter Commission update. Encouraged the commission to emphasize efficiency as an outcome in their recommendations. All Portlanders need a city council that gets things done. Thanked the commission for their hard work and inclusion efforts.

Tom Nelsen – Thanked commission for their work. Approves of most of the recommendations but would like the commission to consider two changes - how many districts there will be and how many will be elected from each district. He encouraged the commission to move to five or six two-member districts. The larger number of districts would provide greater area-specific representation. His second recommendation is to increase accountability of council members the greatest way to achieve that is single-member districts, but he understands the advantages of multi-member districts that the commission has previously outlined. Therefore, having two-member districts would be easier for the public to navigate and understand. Raised concerns that there may be a hierarchy amongst elected councilors within a district.

Carol Chesarek – Thanked commission for their work. Encouraged the commission to include an if-then clause in the ballot questions so that if the expansion to twelve commissioners fails, the Mayor is given veto or tie-breaker powers so a council of only four members doesn't deadlock on issues. Raised concerns with having council restricted to only setting policy will leave them unable to help constituents with issues around policy implementation. Encouraged the commission to soften the lines between policy development and implementation.

Hank Schotland – Stated he is in support of multi-member districts. It is a key factor in moving to proportional representation in Portland. Provided an example of the challenges of a new council member and their challenges regarding starting their role as a councilor. Multi-member districts opens the door for collaboration, allowing all members in a district to share the burden of work and engagement. He stated that people are wired for collaboration and outcomes are better when more people participate. Multi-member districts are important not just for proportional representation for Portlanders but for giving those people elected to be more successful.

Jeff Winkler – Stated that he is a city employee and a member of PEACE (Public Employees Acting on the Climate Emergency). However, tonight he is speaking as a resident, not an employee. Stated that the phase one reforms are a step in the right direction but would like to see more districts so councilor can be elected in established neighborhood boundaries. Perhaps the mapping commission should determine the appropriate number of districts. Concerned that with only four districts, they all are likely to favor wealthy, white leadership. Encouraged commission as a part of phase two to include some binding provisions – 1) require a zero waste, zero emissions economy, 2) establish a climate czar (for lack of a better term) with the office, budget, and authority to make real change, 3) require all council decisions to contribute to a more sustainable, just, and equitable world seven generations into the future. Thanked commission for their work.

Mark Woodleaf – Expressed gratitude for the commissioners, staff, and interpreters for making the meeting accessible. Supporting 350 PDX’s work and encouraged the Commission to center the climate crisis in their work going forward.

Nathan Naimen – Stated he participated on the City Club’s committee who issued the report on elections. Stated he is concerned with the recommendation to have the mayor running the City’s day-to-day operations with the help of a city administrator. Having a council focus on passing laws and limiting the mayor’s role, as the only city-wide elected official, would not lead to a more responsive government. Stated he is concerned it would leave one branch of government to be too powerful. Encouraged the commission to provide better checks and balances by allowing the mayor to have veto power as a check on the powers of the council.

Terry Harris – Stated he continues to be concerned with multi-member districts. State that four districts would be way too large – leaving council members unable to focus on the specific needs of a neighborhood. State that multi-member districts run counter to the access issues we already have in the city, because there will still be no single council member for Portlanders call and each council member can hide behind another rather than take responsibility. Stated that because council members would run against each other in a district the political incentives would be misaligned. He stated that the multi-member, ranked choice voting combination will prove frustrating to accountability and voters. While there is a chance that your first choice will be elected, there is a 100% chance that people who are not your first choice are elected. He raised concerns that this system would support incumbents more than new challengers. Encouraged the commission to move to smaller, single-member districts.

Barbara Isaacman – Stated that she also has concerns with the size of city council. Stated she used to live in Minneapolis, where there are 13 council members, each located in their own districts. This makes it easier for constituents to have a say in what their representatives focus on and get the assistance that they need. Creating four districts would not change who is in power, the same people who are currently in power would still be in power with only four districts. Encouraged the commission to move to a larger number of single-member districts. Encouraged that them to consider an odd number of districts to prevent ties. The proposal as is, is slightly better than what we have now but not sufficiently different to make this a more democratic system. Encouraged group to move away from staggered elections.

Marianne Fitzgerald – Encouraged the commission to consider separating the three proposals into separate ballot titles, so that if someone doesn’t like one part they won’t vote no to the whole thing. For example, she likes the idea of geographic districts but is not in support of four districts or the proposed number of councilors.

Monica Corey – Stated that she agrees with those who have testified tonight against multi-member districts, giving veto power to the mayor, and having more districts. Worries that with multi-member districts there will be confusion as to who is in power and who to connect. Stated that she is worried also about the bundling of all these proposals into one ballot measure.

Jan Carpenter – Stated that she is excited about finding agreement with some of the previous speakers regarding concerns with multi-member districts, the breakdown of the ballot titles, including a climate-centered focus, and giving Mayor veto authority.

Joseph Perez – wondered if there have been any comments or consideration around how the Charter can help to address the influence of money in elections. Particularly, how to prevent the influence of money in council decisions around development and land-use decisions.

Commission Closing Remarks

Commissioner Kitchen thanked everyone who participated in the meeting. She provided an overview of what she heard from public comments. Commissioner Osman thanked all the testifiers and encouraged others to provide input. She thanked the interpreters and staff for their work.

Commissioner Galat offered his thanks and adjourned the meeting

Next Steps

Next Public Input session will be held on May 12, 2022.

Meeting adjourned, 7:59 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Diana Shiplet, Executive Assistant to the CAO and CFO

Meeting Chat

17:23:19 From Comm. Bryan William Lewis to Hosts and panelists:



18:00:31 From Open Signal to Hosts and panelists:

It's important that you don't mute this one.

18:03:28 From Comm. Amira Streeter to Everyone:

So glad we could figure out a hybrid format - thank you staff and Open Signal!

18:04:24 From Comm. Yasmin Ibarra to Everyone:

Good evening everyone!

18:04:54 From Comm. Debbie Kitchin to Everyone:

Good evening!

18:05:47 From Comm. Candace Avalos to Everyone:

Hi all! I'm here and listening but won't be able to speak much.

18:06:49 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Hoy tenemos interpretación disponible en: español, mandarín, español, somalí, ruso, vietnamita y lenguaje de señas americano. Puede escuchar esta reunión en cualquiera de esos idiomas. Para cambiar el idioma, haga clic en el globo en la parte inferior derecha de su pantalla y seleccione el idioma en el que le gustaría escuchar la reunión.

18:06:55 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Maanta waxaan ku turjumi karnaa: Isbaanish, Mandarin, Isbaanish, Soomaali, Ruush, Fiyatnaamiis iyo Luqadda Calaamadaha Ameerikaanka. Waxaad ku dhageysan kartaa kulankaan mid ka mid ah luqadahaas. Si aad u beddesho luqadda, fadlan guji adduunka oo ku yaal dhanka midig ee shaashaddaada oo dooro luqadda aad jeceshahay inaad ku dhegeysato kulanka

18:07:00 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Сегодня мы переводим на: испанский, китайский, испанский, сомалийский, русский, вьетнамский и американский язык жестов. Вы можете слушать эту встречу на любом из этих языков. Чтобы изменить язык, нажмите на глобус в правом нижнем углу экрана и выберите язык, на котором вы хотите прослушать встречу

18:07:05 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Hôm nay chúng tôi có phiên dịch bằng: tiếng Tây Ban Nha, tiếng Quan Thoại, tiếng Tây Ban Nha, tiếng Somali, tiếng Nga, tiếng Việt và tiếng Mỹ. Bạn có thể nghe cuộc họp này bằng bất kỳ ngôn ngữ nào trong số đó. Để thay đổi ngôn ngữ, vui lòng nhấp vào hình ảnh địa cầu ở dưới cùng bên phải màn hình của bạn và chọn ngôn ngữ bạn muốn nghe trong cuộc họp

18:07:10 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

今天，我們提供以下語言的口譯服務：西班牙語、普通話、西班牙語、索馬里語、俄語、越南語和美國手語。您可以使用其中任何一種語言收聽本次會議。要更改語言，請單擊屏幕右下角的地球，然後選擇您想要收聽會議的語言。

18:07:17 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

今天，我們提供以下語言的口譯服務：西班牙語、普通話、西班牙語、索馬里語、俄語、越南語和美國手語。您可以使用其中任何一種語言收聽本次會議。要更改語言，請單擊屏幕右下角的地球，然後選擇您想要收聽會議的語言。

18:08:49 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Disruptive conduct, such as interrupting someone or not concluding your testimony, will not be allowed. If there are any disruptions, a warning will be given, and a further warning may result in you being ejected for the remainder of the meeting. Thank you for helping your fellow Portlanders feel welcome and have an opportunity to be heard.

18:08:55 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

No se permitirán conductas perturbadoras, como interrumpir a alguien o no concluir su testimonio. Si hay alguna interrupción, se dará una advertencia y una advertencia adicional puede resultar en su expulsión por el resto de la reunión. Gracias por ayudar a sus compañeros de Portland a sentirse bienvenidos y tener la oportunidad de ser escuchados.

18:09:00 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Anshax xumada, sida inaad qof kala dhex gasho ama aanad soo gabagabeyn maraggaaga, lama ogolaan doono. Haddii ay jiraan wax carqalad ah, digniin ayaa lagu siin doonaa, digniin kale ayaa laga yaabaa inay keento in lagugu saaro inta shirka ka dhiman. Waad ku mahadsan tahay inaad ka caawisay walaalahaaga Portland inay dareemaan soo dhawayn iyo inay helaan fursad lagu maqlo.

18:09:05 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Деструктивное поведение, такое как перебивание кого-либо или невыполнение своих показаний, не допускается. Если есть какие-либо нарушения, будет дано предупреждение, а дальнейшее предупреждение может привести к тому, что вы будете исключены на оставшуюся часть собрания. Спасибо за то, что помогаете своим собратьям-портлендцам чувствовать себя желанными и иметь возможность быть услышанными

18:09:11 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Hành vi gây rối, chẳng hạn như ngắt lời ai đó hoặc không kết luận lời khai của bạn, sẽ không được phép. Nếu có bất kỳ sự gián đoạn nào, một cảnh báo sẽ được đưa ra và một cảnh báo nữa có thể khiến bạn bị đuổi trong phần còn lại của cuộc họp. Cảm ơn bạn đã giúp những người dân Portland của bạn cảm thấy được chào đón và có cơ hội được lắng nghe.

18:09:18 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

不允許有破壞性行為，例如打斷某人或不結束您的證詞。如果有任何中斷，將發出警告，進一步的警告可能會導致您在會議的剩餘時間內被逐出。感謝您幫助您的波特蘭同胞感到賓至如歸，並有機會發表意見。

18:09:23 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

不允许有破坏性行为，例如打断某人或不结束您的证词。如果有任何中断，将发出警告，进一步的警告可能会导致您在会议的剩余时间内被逐出。感谢您帮助您的波特兰同胞感到宾至如归，并有机会发表意见。

18:50:12 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Para las personas que se unen a nosotros virtualmente y quieren dar testimonio: levanten la mano del zoom virtual. Si necesita interpretación, infórmenos en qué idioma necesita a través de la pregunta y respuesta de zoom. El cuadro de preguntas y respuestas está en el medio de la pantalla. Puede levantar su mano virtual haciendo clic en la mano en la parte inferior de su pantalla. Para las personas que están llamando y que quieren dar testimonio: puede presionar el asterisco 9 para levantar o bajar la mano. Puede presionar el asterisco 6 para activar o desactivar el silencio

18:50:43 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Para las personas que se unirán a nosotros en persona y que quieran dar testimonio: Hay un miembro del personal que anotará su nombre y lo agregará a la lista. Encuéntralos y ellos te ayudarán. Cuando sea su turno de hablar, lo llamaremos por su nombre y tendrá 3 minutos para compartir su testimonio, tenemos un cronómetro que le permitirá saber cuánto tiempo tiene.

18:50:52 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Cuando preste testimonio, le pedimos que indique 1) su nombre 2) su código postal o vecindario si lo desea y 3) si está testificando en nombre de una organización, indíquelo.

18:51:01 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Dadka sida dhabta ah noogu soo biiraya oo raba inay marag ka bixiyaan: Fadlan kor u qaad gacantaada zoom ee casriga ah. Haddii aad u baahan tahay fasiraad, fadlan nagu soo ogeysii luqadda aad uga baahan tahay su'aasha iyo jawaabta zoom. Sanduuqa su'aasha iyo jawaabta waxay ku yaalaan badhtanka shaashadda. Waxaad kor u qaadi kartaa gacantaada casriga ah adigoo gujinaya gacanta hoose ee shaashaddaada.

18:51:07 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Dadka wacaya ee raba inay marag furaan: Waxaad riixi kartaa xiddiga 9 si aad kor ugu qaaddo ama hoos u dhigto gacantaada. Waxaad riixi kartaa xiddiga 6 si aad codka uga qaaddo/ka aamusto.

18:51:14 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Loogu talagalay dadka shakhsi ahaan noogu soo biiraya oo raba inay marag ka bixiyaan: Waxaa jira xubin shaqaale ah oo qori doona magacaaga oo kugu dari doona liiska. Fadlan hel wayna ku caawin doonaan. Marka ay noqoto wakhtigaaga inaad hadasho, waxaanu kuugu yeedhi doonaa magacaaga oo waxaad heli doontaa 3 daqiiqo oo aad la wadaagto maragfurka, waxaanu haysanaa wakhti ku ogeysiin doona wakhti badan oo aad haysato.

18:51:23 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Marka aan maragfurka bixinayno waxaanu ku waydiisanaynaa in aad fadlan sheegtid 1) magacaaga 2) sib code-kaaga ama xaafadaada hadii aad rabto iyo 3) hadii aad u markhaati furayso magaca urur, fadlan sheeg taas.

18:51:31 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Для людей, которые присоединяются к нам виртуально и хотят дать показания: пожалуйста, поднимите руку с виртуальным зумом. Если вам нужен устный перевод, сообщите нам, какой язык вам нужен, с помощью вопроса и ответа в Zoom. Поле вопросов и ответов находится в середине экрана. Вы можете поднять свою виртуальную руку, нажав на руку в нижней части экрана.

18:51:38 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Для людей, которые звонят и хотят дать показания: вы можете нажать звездочку 9, чтобы поднять или опустить руку. Вы можете нажать звездочку 6, чтобы включить/выключить звук.

Для людей, которые присоединяются к нам лично и хотят дать показания: есть с о т р у д н и к , который запишет ваше имя и добавит вас в список. Пожалуйста, найдите их, и они помогут вам. Когда придет ваша очередь говорить, мы назовем ваше имя, и у вас будет 3 минуты, чтобы поделиться свидетельством. У нас есть таймер, который сообщит вам, с к о л ь к о времени у вас есть.

18:51:47 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

При даче показаний мы просим вас указать 1) ваше имя 2) ваш почтовый индекс или район, если хотите, и 3) если вы даете показания от имени организации, пожалуйста, укажите это.

18:51:59 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Đối với những người đang tham gia ảo với chúng tôi và muốn đưa ra lời khai: Vui lòng giơ tay thu phóng ảo của bạn. Nếu bạn cần thông dịch, vui lòng cho chúng tôi biết bạn cần ngôn ngữ nào thông qua câu hỏi và câu trả lời thu phóng. Hộp câu hỏi và câu trả lời ở giữa màn hình. Bạn có thể giơ bàn tay ảo của mình bằng cách nhấp vào bàn tay ở cuối màn hình.

Đối với những người đang gọi điện thoại và những người muốn đưa ra lời khai: Bạn có thể nhấn vào dấu sao 9 để giơ tay hoặc hạ thấp bàn tay của mình. Bạn có thể nhấn dấu sao 6 để bật / tắt tiếng.

18:52:06 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Đối với những người đang trực tiếp tham gia với chúng tôi và muốn đưa ra lời khai: Có một nhân viên sẽ ghi tên bạn và thêm bạn vào danh sách. Hãy tìm họ và họ sẽ hỗ trợ bạn. Khi đến lượt bạn phát biểu, chúng tôi sẽ gọi tên bạn và bạn sẽ có 3 phút để chia sẻ lời khai, chúng tôi có bộ hẹn giờ cho bạn biết bạn có bao nhiêu thời gian.

Khi đưa ra lời khai, chúng tôi yêu cầu bạn vui lòng nêu 1) tên của bạn 2) mã zip hoặc vùng lân cận của bạn nếu bạn muốn và 3) nếu bạn đang làm chứng thay mặt cho một tổ chức, hãy nêu điều đó.

18:52:14 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

對於虛擬加入我們並希望作證的人們：請舉起您的虛擬變焦手。如果您需要口譯，請通過放大問答讓我們知道您需要哪種語言。問答框位於屏幕中間。您可以通過單擊屏幕底部的手來舉起您的虛擬手。

對於打電話和想要作證的人：您可以按星號 9 來舉手或放下手。您可以按星號 6 取消靜音 / 靜音。

對於親自加入我們並想要作證的人：有一名工作人員會記下您的姓名並將您添加到列表中。請找到他們，他們會為您提供幫助。輪到你發言時，我們會叫你的名字，你將有 3 分鐘的時間分享證詞，我們有一個計時器，可以讓你有多少時間。

在作證時，我們要求您說明 1) 您的姓名 2) 您的郵政編碼或社區（如果您願意）以及 3) 如果您代表某個組織作證，請說明。

18:52:21 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

对于虚拟加入我们并希望作证的人们：请举起您的虚拟变焦手。如果您需要口译，请通过放大问答让我们知道您需要哪种语言。问答框位于屏幕中间。您可以通过单击屏幕底部的手来举起您的虚拟手。

对于打电话和想要作证的人：您可以按星号 9 来举手或放下手。您可以按星号 6 取消静音

/静音。

对于亲自加入我们并想要作证的人：有一名工作人员会记下您的姓名并将您添加到列表中。请找到他们，他们会为您提供帮助。轮到你发言时，我们会叫你的名字，你将有 3 分钟的时间分享证词，我们有一个计时器，可以让你知道你有多少时间。

在作证时，我们要求您说明 1) 您的姓名 2) 您的邮政编码或社区（如果您愿意）以及 3) 如果您代表某个组织作证，请说明。

18:52:56 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

For folks who are joining us virtually and want to give testimony: Please raise your virtual zoom hand. If you need interpretation, please let us know what language you need through the zoom question and answer. The question-and-answer box is at the middle of the screen. You can raise your virtual hand by clicking on the hand at the bottom of your screen.

For folks who are calling and who want to give testimony: You can press star 9 to raise or lower your hand. You can press star 6 to unmute/mute.

For folks who are joining us in person and who want to give testimony: There is a staff member who will note your name and add you to the list. Please find them and they will assist you. When it's your turn to speak, we will call your name and you will have 3 minutes to share testimony, we have a timer that will let you know much time you have.

18:53:06 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

When giving testimony we ask that you please state 1) your name 2) your zip code or neighborhood if you'd like and 3) if you are testifying on behalf of an organization, please state that.

19:08:05 From Comm. Amira Streeter to Everyone:

Happy to take a look after

19:28:22 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

For folks who are joining us virtually and want to give testimony: Please raise your virtual zoom hand and we will note your name. If you need interpretation, please let us know what language you need through the Question and answer box at the middle of the screen.

19:37:32 From Comm. Candace Avalos to Everyone:

I'm gonna drive home now so I will hop off and be back after the break thanks!

19:40:05 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

Hi! We are on a break. We will be back at 7:46pm.

19:41:02 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:

If you want to give testimony: Please raise your virtual zoom hand and we will note your name. If you need interpretation, please let us know what language you need through the Question and answer box at the middle of the screen.

19:47:12 From Amal - somali (interpreter) to Hosts and panelists:

Okay welcome back all

So Dua wad kuligiina.

19:51:36 From Comm. Robin Ye (he/him) to Everyone:

Joseph, we can look to include some discussion about money in politics in the next progress report

19:52:06 From Comm. Robin Ye (he/him) to Everyone:

this hearing isn't built for us to respond right now, but we heard your comment

19:55:16 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:
hearings information: <https://www.portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission/charterhearings>

19:55:35 From Sofia Alvarez, Charter Staff to Everyone:
The public comment period closes at 5:00pm on Monday, May 30th

Email to CharterReview@portlandoregon.gov

Phone call to 311

In writing to the: Office of Management and Finance, Charter Review, 1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 901, Portland, OR 97204