Welcome to the Charter Commission Listening Session!

Zoom Logistics

Recording: The meeting today will be recorded. The educational presentation will be posted on our website for later viewing.

Mute: Please remember to mute yourself when not speaking.

Chat: We have the chat feature available today. If you have questions or thoughts as folks are presenting, please put them in the chat. We won't be able to answer questions during the presentation but they will become part of the meeting record and help inform Commission discussions.

Breakout rooms: You are invited to join a breakout room for more in-depth discussion during the second half of the session. These rooms will also be recorded but only notes will be posted on the website.

Tech support: We have Zoom tech support available. If you have any Zoom problems, contact me at Ariella.frishberg@jla.us.com or call/text 971-225-7868. We will post that information in the chat.

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Agenda

Time	Topic
10 minutes	**Welcome + Zoom + Overview**
30 minutes	**Educational Presentation** • Charter 101 • Form of Government • City Council Elections
5 minutes	**Transition break**
45 minutes	**Breakout rooms**
25 minutes	**Report out**
5 minutes	**Closing**

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Group Agreements

- Share the space
- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Take care of yourself

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Listening session goals

- To make sure we all understand how the Charter Review process works

- To learn about our current city government and elections, and begin to understand what some of the alternatives are

- To reflect on our experiences with our city government and voting

What is City government ?

A group of people that sets rules for the city and supports the communities of the city

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What is City Council?

City leaders pass laws and create programs to support the needs of communities

A leader that listens to the concerns and needs of the city's residents

Portland City Council

What is a city charter?

- Functions as city's constitution
- Creates city as a legal entity
- Authorizes city powers
- Outlines basic, broad fundamentals of city government
- Concise
- Avoid need for frequent amendment
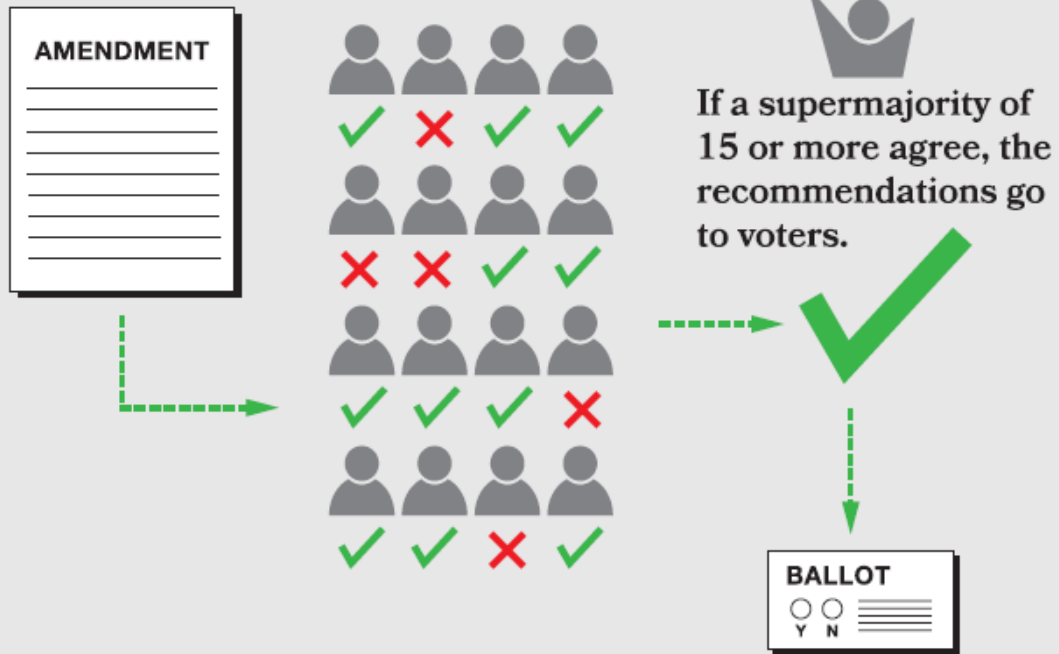- Amended by the people

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The Charter Commission is currently reviewing our City Charter to recommend changes that impact **ALL** Portlanders

Charter amendments
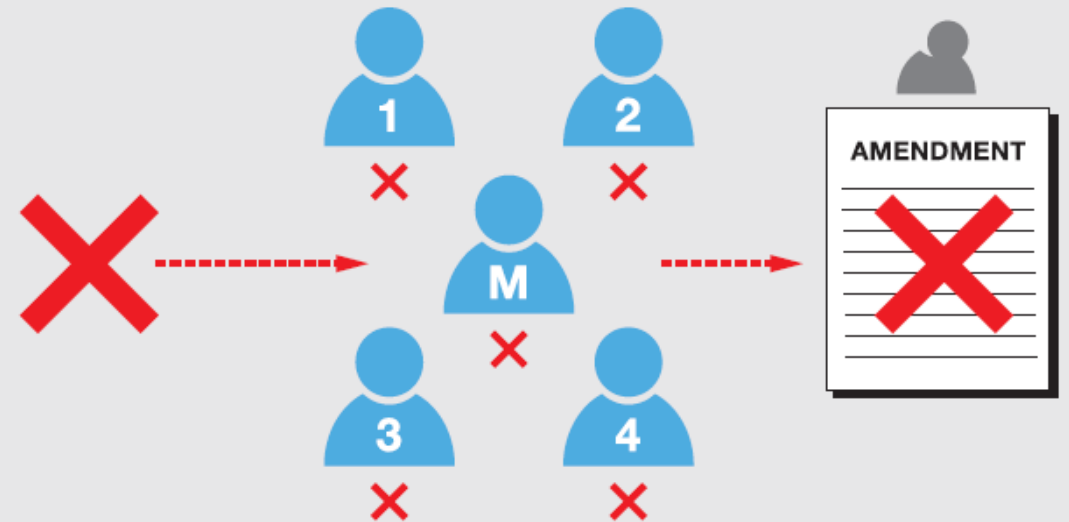

The Commission has broad latitude to recommend amendments to the City Charter.

AMENDMENT

If a supermajority of 15 or more agree, the recommendations go to voters.

BALLOT
◯ ◯
Y N

OR

If there's no supermajority, the city council can accept, reject, or modify any recommendations.

1 ✕   2 ✕
M ✕
3 ✕   4 ✕

AMENDMENT ✕

Role of the Charter Commission

- Determine its own rules of procedure

- Review and recommend amendments to the Charter

- Provide a written report of its findings to City Council
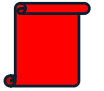
CHARTER REVIEW TIMELINE

We are here (Nov 2021)

Proposals for feedback (Mar 2022)

Ballot Referral (June 2022)

Election (Nov 2022)

	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
	Monthly Work Sessions with Public Comment																
Phase I Issues	Evaluate and synthesize data and information / Host community listening sessions					Determine charter amendment proposals		Collect feedback on proposals through public hearings and revise			Report	Educate Portlanders on proposed charter amendments				Election	
Phase II Issues						Determine phase II priority issues		Evaluate and synthesize data and information / Host Listening Sessions			Determine proposed charter amendments			Collect feedback on proposals through public hearings and revise			Phase II Report

CHARTER REVIEW TIMELINE

We are here

Proposals for feedback

Ballot Referral

	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
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Desired Outcomes for Charter Reform

1 Participatory and growing democracy with more voices being heard in elections

2 Accessible and transparent government with Councilors who are easy to reach

3 Reflective government with Councilors who look like the community they represent

4 Responsive government with Councilors who understand your community needs

5 Accountable government with Councilors who answer to the people

6 Trustworthy government with Councilors who safeguard democracy

Form of Government

Portland's Current form of Government
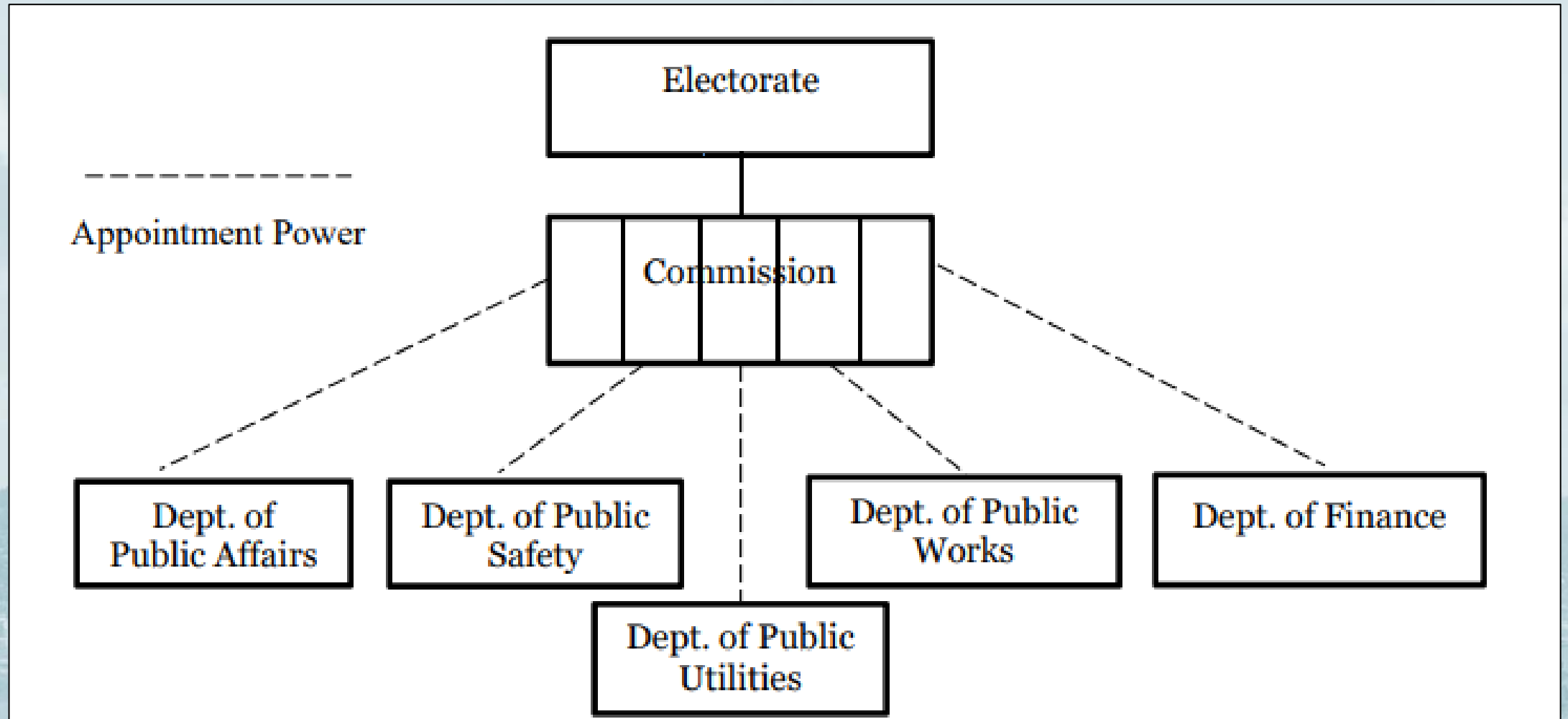
Mayor

4 City Commissioners

Auditor

+

+

- Pass laws, approve City budget
- Run City bureaus, carry out the laws
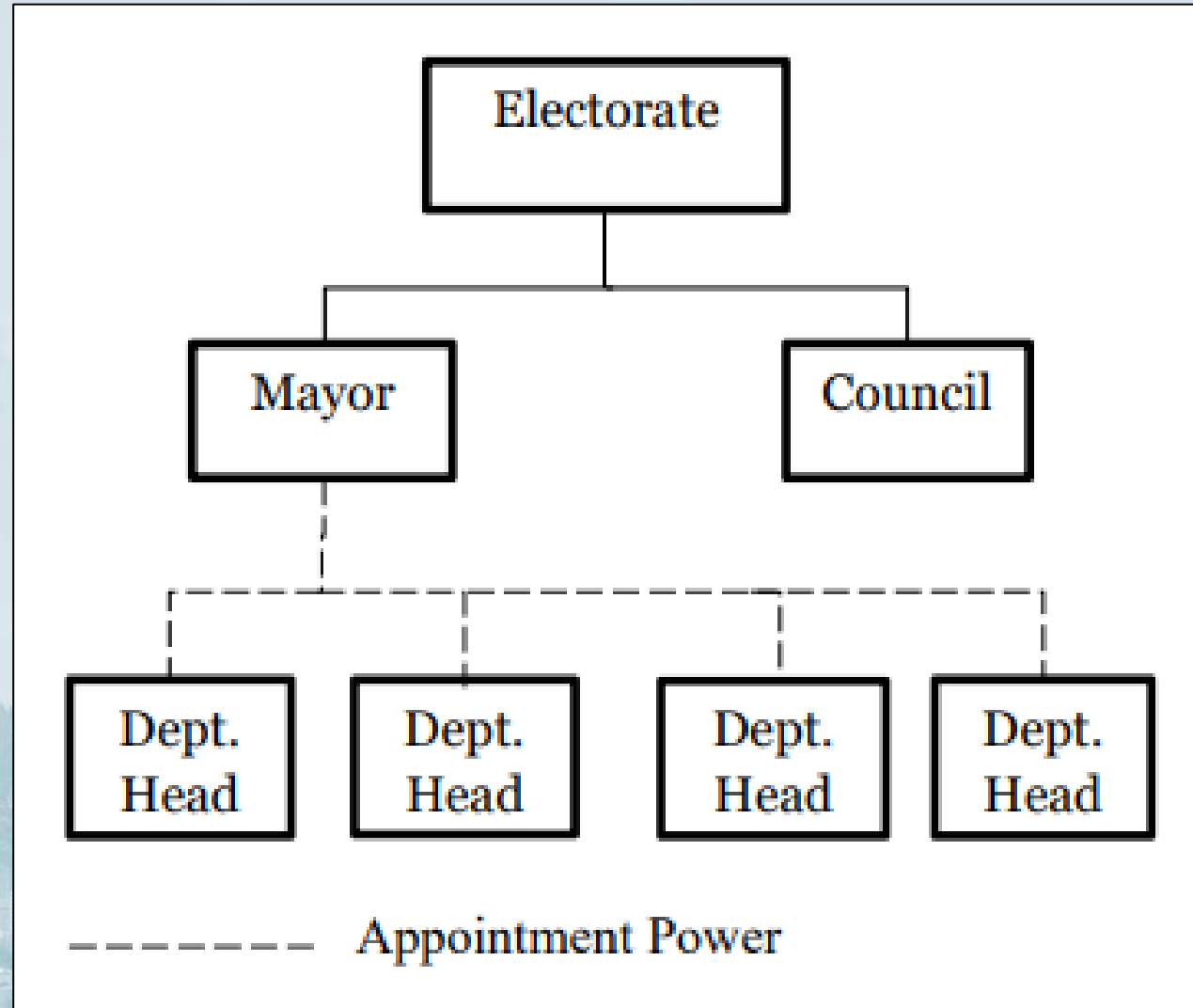- Hear land-use and other appeals

- Reviews city bureaus and offices
- Oversees City elections
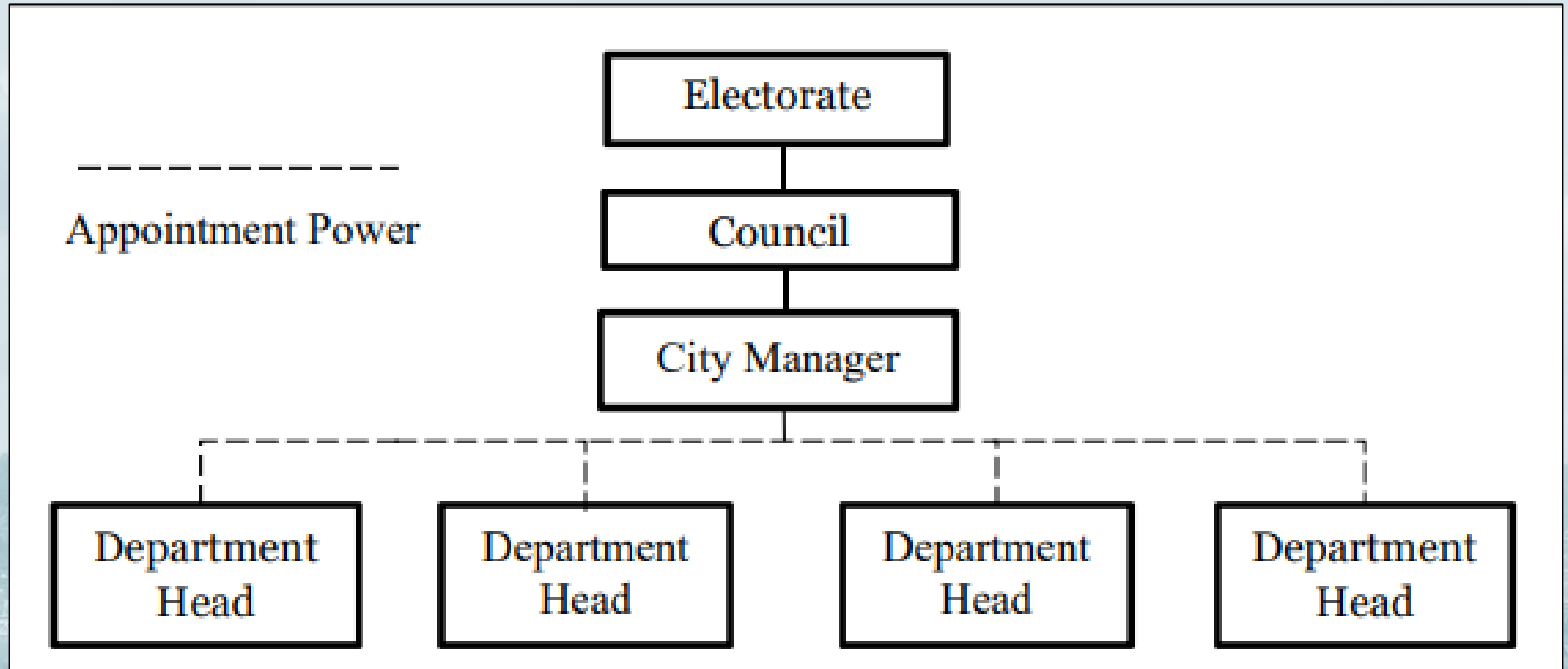- Promotes access to public records

Commission

Source: League of Women Voters of Portland, 2019

Mayor-Council

Source: League of Women Voters of Portland, 2019

Council-Manager

Source: League of Women Voters of Portland, 2019

Form of Government Committee: Study Questions

Legislative Authority: Who should have the power to make the laws?

Executive Authority: Who should have the power to carry out the laws?

Mayor is a member of Council: Should the Mayor be a member of City Council?

Mayor votes with Council: Should the Mayor vote with Council?

Mayor has veto authority: Should the Mayor have veto authority?

Appointment & removal of Chief Administrative Officer or City Manager: Who should be able to appoint and remove a CAO or City Manager?

Appointment & removal of bureau directors: Who should be able to appoint and remove bureau directors?

Policy development: Who should be responsible for developing policy?

Prepare budget: Who should be responsible for preparing the budget?

Form of Government Committee: Areas of Agreement

- Increase the size of City Council

- Remove the role of Commissioner-in-Charge of bureaus from Commissioners and shift the management authority elsewhere

- Cleary (re)define the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and City Council

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City Council Elections

Portland's Current City Council Elections

Constituency

City leaders elected at-large (citywide)

Voting System

Winner-take-all (candidate with the most votes wins)

Timing of Elections

Primary (May) & General election (November)

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Alternative Constituencies

Districts

Single Member, Multi-Member, or Mixed

At-large

Everyone running in the same pool

Hybrid

Both district and at-large

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Alternative Voting Methods

Ranked Choice Voting

STAR Voting

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Ranked Choice Voting

How does STAR voting work?

STAR VOTING
SCORE - THEN - AUTOMATIC - RUNOFF

- Give your favorite(s) five stars.
- Give your last choice(s) zero stars.
- Show preference order and level of support.
- Equal scores indicate no preference.
- Those left blank receive zero stars.

Score Candidates:	Worst 0	1	2	3	4	Best 5
Abby	0	1	2	3	●	5
Ben	●	1	2	3	4	5
Carmen	0	1	2	3	4	●
DeAndre	0	1	2	3	●	5
Eric	0	●	2	3	4	5

The two highest scoring candidates are finalists.
Your vote goes to the the finalist you prefer.

Scoring

The two highest scoring candidates are finalists.

Candidates:	Totals:
Carmen	624,057
Ben	509,742
DeAndre	387,143
Abby	37,708
Eric	2,789

Carmen and Ben advance to the Automatic Runoff.

Runoff

Your vote goes to the finalist you prefer.

Candidates:	Worst 0	1	2	3	4	Best 5
Abby	0	1	2	3	●	5
Ben	0	●	2	3	4	5
Carmen	0	1	2	3	●	5
DeAndre	0	1	2	3	4	●
Eric	0	1	2	3	4	5

This vote goes to Carmen because she was scored higher than Ben.

Results

The finalist preferred by the majority wins!

Carmen 58.9%
Ben 41.1%
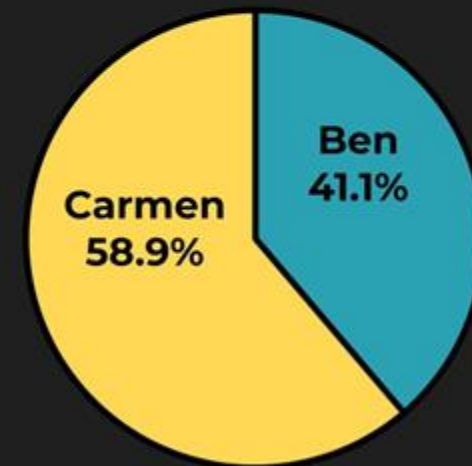
City Council Elections Committee: Study Questions

Elected offices: Which offices should be elected by the people?

Council constituency: What should the constituency of Councilors be? Examples include at-large, district, or a mixture of at-large and district. If the Committee recommends districts, how should they be drawn.

Council size: How many City Councilors should we have to fulfill the work of Portland?

Form of voting: What form of voting should we use to elect city elected offices? Should our system retain a winner-take-all/loser has none approach?

Timing of elections: Should we have a two-round system that includes a primary and a general election? Should local elections be aligned with the presidential general election?

Expanding democracy: Who should have the ability to vote on Portland's elected leaders? Who should have the ability to take part in direct democracy ballot measures?

Campaign finance: How can funds be raised and spent? What is the role of public financing?

City Council Elections Committee Areas of Agreement

- Increase the size of City Council

- Shift to a form of voting that allows for a result in one election and captures people's preferences

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Next steps

Recommendations Template

- What change are you proposing?

- What problems are you trying to address?

- How has this problem benefited or burdened Black, indigenous, people of color, immigrant and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, those experiencing houselessness, and Portlanders historically left out of City Hall decision making?

- How does this change align with our desired outcomes?

- Who might benefit from or be burdened by this change?

- What are the arguments against this proposal?

- Are there other examples of this change?

- Any individuals or organizations consulted

- List of citations

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Engage with Charter Review

Sign-up to give verbal public comment

Take one of our surveys

Join virtual meetings and/or watch past recordings online

Submit written comment via email or comment form

Sign up for monthly email updates

Request a briefing or meeting with Commissioners and/staff

CharterReview@portlandoregon.gov

Thanks!

Breakout room report