



Portland Charter Commission: Phase I Desired Outcomes

Outcomes	Form of Government	City Council Elections	Considerations
#1	Participatory and growing democracy	More voices being heard in elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More voices and people inform decision-making including in policy and budget development • Portlanders are excited to participate in our democracy and have confidence in our government • There is increased political power in communities • More Portlanders vote and the electorate is more reflective of our entire community • Voters have more choices and more opportunities to elect their preferred candidate • Voters feel their choices matter • One electorate doesn't set up choices for another electorate • Portlanders chose for us who we want to weigh in on our governance
#2	Accessible and transparent government	Councilors who are easy to reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portlanders know who is responsible for what and the roles and responsibilities of city leaders are clear • There are direct and clear pathways from community voice to government action • City structures are straightforward and easy to navigate • Portlanders can access services and influence power regardless of their wealth or other privilege • The process for appointing city leaders is transparent and based on experience • Candidates for elected office face less barriers, play by the same rules, and aren't advantaged by wealth
#3	Reflective government	Councilors who look like the community they represent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council spends more time engaging constituents including in policy development • City Council staff devote more time to constituent needs • Candidates reflect our diverse communities • Smaller communities have the power to elect their preferred candidates • Elected officials reflect our diverse communities and the community they represent • Portlanders can find someone on council who represents their interests • Elected positions are intentional, and it takes a lower threshold to win • People elected are supported by Portlanders
#4	Responsive government	Councilors who understand your community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government responds and responds how Portlanders need • Council spends more time making laws, developing policy, and budgeting • Government can plan city-wide and long-term and can address complex issues • Council works more collaboratively • Government responses are more collaborative, cohesive, and assume shared responsibility; and Commissioner agendas are not based on what bureaus they supervise and control • Better coordination by Council enables the city to act nimbly including in emergencies • Government responses are timely • Policies are responsive to local community needs • There is alignment of policy priorities • There are improved community outcomes because government responses are more effective • Pressing issues are prioritized • A more holistic budget that supports strategic priorities • Clear roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Council promote government effectiveness • There is more consistent supervision and control of bureaus • Bureaus function efficiently and don't duplicate work • Electoral system not driven by wealth that promotes equitable distribution of services • Representative candidates and councilors improve the effectiveness of government responses • Government addresses past harms
#5	Accountable government	Councilors who answer to the people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government is answerable to us for its actions and its commitments to anti-racism and equity • There are checks and balances on Council law-making and a separation of powers • There is a match between perceptions of responsibility and actual authority • Councilors are answerable to us for misbehavior • There are avenues to provide feedback after government responds
#6	Trustworthy government	Councilors who safeguard democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government adheres to its values including its commitments to anti-racism and equity • Government is effective • Portlanders can see their access to government and government responses in action • People don't perceive conflicts of interest when Council makes laws • People trust in how city leaders are appointed and removed • There's a home for the public financing of elections program that promotes trust in its decisions