

PHASE II:
PROGRESS REPORT

#2



PORTLAND CHARTER COMMISSION



November
2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary is designed to give a high-level view of the approach and work of the Charter Commission at this stage in the process.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Any potential reforms will be evaluated based on their ability to advance these outcomes:

1. A participatory and growing democracy with more voices being heard in elections
2. An accessible and transparent government with Councilors who are easy to reach
3. A reflective government with Councilors who look like the community they represent
4. A responsive government with Councilors who understand your community needs
5. An accountable government with Councilors who answer to the people
6. A trustworthy government with Councilors who safeguard democracy

PHASE II OF CHARTER REVIEW

In summer 2021, the Charter Commission decided to approach the charter review process in two phases – meaning two sets of issues and potentially two election cycles. The Commission is currently in the second phase of the charter review process with dedicated phase II meetings having begun on June 30, 2022. Phase II is focused on three areas:

1. Climate and environmental justice,
2. Bureau and office proposals, and
3. Expansion of voting rights.

The Charter Commission created a subcommittee for each focus area.

PHASE II PROPOSALS ADVANCED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

On October 18, the Charter Commission voted to advance 15 proposals for public comment. Eleven of the 15 proposals advanced for public comment were initiated by City bureaus and offices.

Proposal #1: Delete the prohibition on mandating the weatherization of structures built before September 1, 1979.

Proposal #2: Clarify language to reflect the City’s existing role to protect recreational and natural resources.

Proposal #3: Clarify language to reflect the City’s existing role to protect and manage water, sewage, and stormwater.

Proposal #4: Delete vague and archaic language: “roaming the streets at unseasonable hours”.

Proposal #5: Delete vague and archaic language: “offensive” businesses.

Proposal #6: Delete outdated, burdensome, and redundant requirements for franchise agreements.

Proposal #7: Remove the 5% cap on the City’s transient lodgings tax.

Proposal #8: Increase Risk Management’s settlement authority from \$5,000 to \$25,000. *Please Note: An increase to the City’s Division of Risk Management’s authority to settle claims was part of the larger measure on the ballot in November. Because that measure passed, this proposed amendment will not move forward because it is unnecessary. We are leaving the placeholder here so people can track proposal numbers.*

Proposal #9: Update, and make consistent, references to “protected classes”.

Proposal #10: Replace “disability” with “incapacity” when referencing an elected official’s inability to perform their duties.

Proposal #11: Create an Independent Portland Elections Commission.

Proposal #12: Create an article dedicated to environmental issues that includes environmental justice as a core value of the City, requires the City to assess the climate impact of its decisions and establishes a right to a clean and healthy environment.

Proposal #13: Establish meaningful public engagement as a core value of the City.

Proposal #14: Require the City to create by ordinance a participatory budgeting program open to all residents.

Proposal #15: Expand right to vote in City elections to the fullest extent allowed by law.

At this point, the Commission’s intent is to solicit public input on the proposals. The presence of a proposal does not necessarily mean it will result in a ballot measure.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The important work of charter reform requires engaging Portlanders across communities, lived experiences, and backgrounds. The Charter Commission is committed to a community-driven process to inform its decision-making and an equitable, accessible, and transparent community engagement process. Community listening sessions, stakeholder engagement, public comments and dedicated public hearings are all strategies to solicit input on the proposals.

BALLOT REFERRAL PATHWAYS

If 15 or more Commissioners agree to a recommended amendment, then the Commission can directly refer that amendment to the next primary or general election (May or November 2024). The Commission may, through a simple majority vote, recommend amendments to City Council. City Council may, but is not required to, refer the amendments to voters at an election of its choosing.

INTRODUCTION

Since December 2020, the 20-member City Council appointed Portland Charter Commission has been deeply engaged in extensive research and ongoing public and community engagement to shape and inform recommendations for amendments to the City of Portland's Charter.

This is the second progress report from the Charter Commission on phase II. The purpose of the progress reports is to provide Portlanders with a general sense of where the Charter Commission is headed and provide information on the policies under consideration in a transparent and accessible way. This report represents preliminary agreements made by the Charter Commission on its phase II recommendations.

Please note that the Commission previously released six progress reports related to its phase I work. Phase I was focused on the structure of city government. At the end of charter review, the Commission will release a final report that combines its phase I and phase II work.

BACKGROUND

What is a city charter?

The city charter is a guiding document that establishes the government system and structure of a city. It defines how the government is set up, how city leaders are elected, and the roles and responsibilities of those leaders. The city charter functions as the city's constitution – it creates the city as a legal entity, authorizes city powers, and outlines the broad basic fundamentals of city government. Portland's city's charter can be amended **ONLY** by a vote of the people.

What is charter review?

The city charter requires that, at least once every ten years, City Council appoint a 20-member Charter Commission to review and recommend changes to the charter. City Council appointed the current Charter Commission in December of 2020.

So, what's the process for making changes to the city charter?

There are 20 Charter Commissioners participating in the review process. If 15 or more agree to a recommended change, those recommendations go directly to the ballot for Portlanders to vote on. If 11 to 14 Commissioners agree to a recommended change, then those recommendations go to City Council. City Council will decide whether to refer those recommendations to the ballot as-is, modify them, or do nothing. Again, it is only by a **vote of Portlanders** that the charter may be changed.

PHASED APPROACH & TIMELINE

In summer 2021, the Charter Commission decided to approach the charter review process in two phases – meaning two sets of issues and two election cycles. Phase I focused on the structure of city government. The Commission finalized its phase I recommendations, and that proposal will be on the November 2022 ballot for Portlanders to consider.

The Commission is currently in the second phase with dedicated phase II meetings having begun on June 30, 2022. Phase II is focused on three areas:

1. Climate and environmental justice,

2. Bureau and office proposals, and
3. Expansion of voting rights.

BALLOT REFERRAL PATHWAYS

There are two pathways for Charter Commission-recommended amendments to come before Portland voters. If 15 or more Commissioners agree to a recommended amendment, then the Commission can directly refer that amendment to the next primary or general election (May or November 2024). The Commission may, through a simple majority vote, recommend amendments to City Council. City Council may, but is not required to, refer the amendments to voters at an election of its choosing – including a 2023 election.

However, the Commission recognizes that Special Elections (those that occur outside of May and November elections of even-numbered years) have significantly lower voter turnout than primary and general elections (those in May and November of even-numbered years). Of the five previous Special Elections (November 2021, May 2021, August 2020, November 2019, and May 2019), only two had a City of Portland election and voter turnout was less than 40% for both (August 2020 - 39.57% and November 2019 - 34.86%) as a comparison in the November 2020 general election 83.88% of Portlanders voted. The Commission set as a desired outcome for charter review, a participatory and growing democracy with more voices being heard in elections.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The important work of charter reform has required engaging Portlanders across neighborhoods, lived experiences, and backgrounds. The Charter Commission has been committed to a community-driven process to inform its decision-making and an equitable, accessible, and transparent community engagement process. The Charter Commission has partnered with various community-based organization to support the design and implementation of community education and engagement actives to meaningfully engage Portland’s diverse communities.

Even though the Charter Commission approached their work in two phases, engagement has been continuous. The robust community education, engagements activities and public input received throughout phase I helped inform and built the foundation for the proposals of phase II.

Table 1. Community Engagement by the numbers

Engagements	Phase II	Total to date
Survey responses	N/A	4,022
People receiving monthly email updates	381	1,423
Community listening sessions (partner & Commission hosted)	2	28
Participants at listening sessions (partner & Commission hosted)	93	673
Public comments received	206	1,806
Hours of verbal public comment	3	18.5
Public meetings + hearings	26	104
Charter review briefings & presentations	23	133
Policy discussions with community organizations	6	40
Media articles or interviews	209	318

Note 1: The total to date includes engagements through November 10, 2022. Phase II engagements are distinguished starting on May 30, 2022, when the official public comment period of phase I work closed.

PHASE II PROPOSALS ADVANCED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Commission began dedicated phase II meetings on June 30, 2022. The first task was to determine focus areas for phase II. Potential focus areas came from a variety of sources, including public comments, partner-hosted listening sessions, Commission-hosted listening sessions, community organization policy discussions, city bureau director discussions, city elected leader discussions, city bureau and office proposals, and Charter Commissioners.

The Commission chose three focus areas for phase II: 1) climate and environmental justice; 2) bureau and office proposals; and 3) expansion of voting rights. The Commission formed a subcommittee for each focus area.

On October 18, the Charter Commission voted to advance 15 proposals for public comment. Eleven of the 15 proposals advanced for public comment were initiated by City bureaus and offices. Charter Commissioners recognize that City bureaus and offices are on the frontlines everyday working to implement policy for the people of Portland. There are a number of things in the charter that, if adjusted, could improve the work of bureaus and offices in delivering services to Portlanders. All City bureaus and offices, including Council offices, were asked to forward the redline language to valued community partners and stakeholders so they can offer input on proposals which may affect them.

To help Portlanders provide input on the proposals:

- Seven of the proposals could be considered primarily “housekeeping” in nature: proposals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10.
- The City Budget Office estimates no direct financial impact for proposals 1-11 and 13. The City Budget Office does estimate direct financial impact for proposals 12, 14, and 15.

At this point, the Commission’s intent is to solicit public input on the proposals. The presence of a proposal does not necessarily mean it will result in a ballot measure.

PROPOSAL #1: Delete the prohibition on mandating the weatherization of structures built before September 1, 1979.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

Currently, the City cannot mandate weatherization for any building built before September 1, 1979, unless Council refers the weatherization mandate to voters. This limit was added in 1980 via initiative petition and passed with 56% of the vote.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the City would be able to move forward with longstanding climate and energy policy commitments which call for Portland to reach community-wide carbon neutrality and to eliminate fossil fuels entirely from electricity, buildings and transportation by 2050. These commitments require strong mandates around energy efficiency.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

The proposal is to delete Charter Section 1-108. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

~~Section 1-108. Mandatory Weatherization for Existing Buildings Requires Vote of the People.~~

~~Except for the provisions of the Building Code of the City of Portland in effect on September 1, 1979, the Council of the City of Portland shall not pass or enforce any ordinance, resolution, law or program mandating~~

~~weatherization for any building or structure built in the City of Portland prior to September 1, 1979, unless such ordinance, resolution, law or program is referred to the citizens of Portland for a vote. (Add. Nov. 4, 1980.)~~

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The City's Bureau of Planning & Sustainability initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau's memo describing the proposal on page 29 of this [document](#).

The bureau's reasons for the proposed amendment include (1) the City's climate and energy policy commitments cannot be achieved without strong mandates around energy efficiency; and (2) the requirement to refer any energy efficiency standards to the voters is expensive, cumbersome, and has effectively prevented the City from taking steps necessary to equitably reduce energy waste and carbon emissions from the building stock.

The Commission's Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee and the Climate & Environmental Justice Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Charter Commissioners met with Bureau of Planning & Sustainability leadership to discuss the proposal. The Bureau of Planning & Sustainability estimated that approximately 71% of properties in the urban service boundary (or 140,893) were constructed prior to 1979. They also reiterated that no mandates about specific weatherization are being proposed with this amendment. The amendment would allow for weatherization and energy efficiency policy to be created as an additional tool to reach the City's climate action goals. Any weatherization policy would be created alongside community.

PROPOSAL #2: Clarify language to reflect the City's existing role to protect recreational and natural resources.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, the description of the City's role to establish and protect recreational and natural areas was last updated in 1966.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the description of the City's role would be clarified and streamlined.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to amend Charter Section 12-101. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

ARTICLE 1. RECREATIONAL AND NATURAL AREAS.

Section 12-101. Parks and Recreational Areas and Facilities. General Authority.

The City may establish parks, playgrounds, forests, wetlands and human-built or natural ~~recreation areas and~~ facilities of all kinds, ~~either inside or outside the City ("recreational and natural areas")~~. For that purpose, the City may acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, grant, donation, exchange or otherwise, real and personal

property and any interest therein, ~~and~~ may rent or lease property of any kind for public use; ~~and may~~ ~~construct, reconstruct, remodel, alter, repair, maintain, improve and equip areas and facilities which the Council City finds necessary, appropriate or desirable, either inside or outside the City.~~ The City may exchange any property for other property which it deems more suitable or convenient for the use or protection of recreational and natural areas ~~park and recreation use,~~ and the City may dispose of ~~the~~ property not needed for those purposes. The City may construct, reconstruct, remodel, alter, repair, preserve, restore, maintain, improve and equip recreational and natural areas.

The City may establish, ~~alter or discontinue programs, services and exhibits and conduct programs~~ for the education or enjoyment of the public or for the protection of recreational and natural areas. ~~the furtherance of public enjoyment and recreation, and may change, alter or discontinue them.~~ The Council City may construct, reconstruct, alter, remodel, furnish and equip improvements found necessary or appropriate for the convenience of the public using park and recreation facilities, ~~or of persons or employees conducting or assisting park or recreational programs or maintaining parks, areas, facilities, or improvements.~~ The Mayor may contract with any public or private person in any matter relating to programs, services or exhibits programs. The City may do all things the City finds necessary or convenient to promote recreational and natural areas. ~~facilities and aesthetic enjoyment of the people, and the beautification of City property.~~

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The City's Portland Parks & Recreation initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau's memo describing the proposal on page 27 of this [document](#).

The bureau's reason for the proposed amendment is to better reflect the City's role in protecting, restoring and enhancing natural systems and natural areas.

The Commission's Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee and the Climate & Environmental Justice Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Charter Commissioners met with Portland Parks & Recreation leadership to discuss the proposal.

PROPOSAL #3: Clarify language to reflect the City's existing role to protect and manage water, sewage, and stormwater.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, the description of the City's role to protect human health and the environment by managing sewage and stormwater was last updated in 1966.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the City's role would be clarified with updated language.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to amend Charter Sections 2-105(a) and 11-301. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

Section 2-105. Continuation of Specific Powers

(a) 62 To protect, restore, remediate or alter channels, riparian areas and floodplains of streams; improve waterfronts; protect, restore, expand, fill or grade lakes, ponds, wetlands and other waters, natural systems or constructed equivalents; increase or diminish the flow of waters over or into land, or in natural or artificial channels and purify those waters; perform other acts and things found necessary or appropriate for sewerage, drainage, purification and proper disposal thereof; and fix charges therefor. The Council may assess such charges as part of sewer, water and other charges.

Section 11-301. Sewage Disposal or Purification System.

The City may protect, restore, construct, reconstruct, remediate, enlarge, alter, modify, equip, operate and maintain a sewage and stormwater disposal or ~~sewage~~ purification system within or without the corporate limits or both, including but not limited to: all methods of storm drainage, including the use of natural systems or constructed equivalents, intercepting sewers, diversion sewers, relieving or interconnection sewers, sewers to separate storm and sanitary sewage, pump or ejector stations and equipment, and plants for the treatment and disposal of sewage. For that purpose the City may acquire by any lawful means property, real or personal, interests in property, equipment, and related facilities and may make all expenditures which the City finds necessary or appropriate to carry out such purposes, either within or without the corporate limits. The City may sell or otherwise dispose of any or all by-products or salvage products from this operation. The City also may contract with any other person, public or private, to further purification of public waters or protection of the public health.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The City's Bureau of Environmental Services initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau's memo describing the proposal on page 33 of this [document](#).

The bureau's reasons for the proposed amendment include (1) federal and state laws enacted after 1970 have significantly changed what the city and bureau can and cannot do with respect to discharging to waterways and protecting fish and wildlife within the city; (2) science and engineering knowledge and practices in Portland and worldwide have demonstrated that green infrastructure and habitat restoration are cost effective means of meeting the requirements, whereas the current charter language favors destruction or alteration of habitat and natural features; and (3) environmental degradation most acutely impacts Black, Indigenous, and other people of color communities and exacerbates the impacts of climate change.

The Commission's Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee and the Climate & Environmental Justice Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Charter Commissioners met with Bureau of Environmental Services leadership to discuss the proposal.

PROPOSAL #4: Delete vague and archaic language: “roaming the streets at unseasonable hours.”

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

Currently, Council may “prohibit persons from roaming the streets at unseasonable hours.”

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, this section would be deleted in its entirety.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

The proposal is to delete Charter Section 2-105(a)(50). Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

Chapter 2, Section 2-105 Continuation of Specific Powers

(a) 50. ~~To prohibit persons from roaming the streets at unseasonable hours.~~

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background

The City’s Bureau of Development Services initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau’s memo describing the proposal on page 21 of this [document](#).

The reason for the proposed amendment is to delete vague and archaic language: “roaming the streets at unseasonable hours”.

The Commission’s Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

PROPOSAL #5: Delete vague and archaic language: “offensive” businesses.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

Currently, Council may regulate, restrain and provide for the exclusion of businesses which are offensive or may create or constitute a nuisance. The reference to “offensive” is vague and archaic.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, Council would retain authority to regulate, restrain and provide for the exclusion of businesses which may create or constitute a nuisance.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

The proposal is to amend Charter Section 2-105(a)(36). Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

Chapter 2, Section 2-105 Continuation of Specific Powers

(a) 36. To regulate, restrain and to provide for the exclusion from the City, or any part thereof, of trades, occupations or businesses which ~~are offensive or may in the opinion of the Council~~ create or constitute a nuisance, and to regulate uses of land and structures within the City.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background

The City's Bureau of Development Services initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau's memo describing the proposal on page 19 of this [document](#).

The reason for the proposed amendment is to delete vague and archaic language: "offensive" businesses.

The Commission's Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

PROPOSAL #6: Delete outdated, burdensome, and redundant requirements for franchise agreements.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, City Council approves franchise agreements via ordinance through an outdated, burdensome, and redundant process that includes publication of the proposed franchise – frequently 20+ pages in length – in a local newspaper, extended time between the first and second reading of the ordinance and requires the franchisee to sign the franchise and submit written acceptance of the franchise.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, City Council would approve franchise agreements using a process similar to that of other ordinances.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to amend Charter Section 10-205, amend Charter Section 10-207, delete Charter Section 10-208, delete Charter Section 10-212, amend Charter Section 10-213. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

Section 10-205. Limited Time.

Franchises may be granted for a limited time in, ~~and upon,~~ under and above the streets, highways and public places and property of the City of Portland, in the manner and subject to the conditions hereinafter contained.

Section 10-207. Method of Granting.

Every franchise shall be embodied in an ordinance, which shall contain all the terms and conditions of the proposed grant, ~~and shall be filed with the Auditor. Thereupon such proposed ordinance shall be published in full, once in the City official newspaper. There shall also be published, in a conspicuous place in such daily newspaper of the City having a circulation in excess of fifteen thousand (15,000), as the Council may direct, a notice prepared by the Auditor, that an application has been made for a franchise, giving the name of the applicant, the character and location of the proposed grant, and requesting any person having any objections to such proposed franchise or any provisions thereof to file the same in writing with the Auditor within twenty (20)~~

days from the first publication of such notice. If the request is made therefor, the Council shall fix a time for a hearing upon such objections and give reasonable notice of the time thereof and not less than five (5) days. All of such publications and notices shall be at the expense of the applicants for such franchises.

Such ordinances shall not come up for first reading until after the expiration of the said twenty (20) days.

If such ordinance shall be amended, it shall be republished in the City official newspaper in full as amended.

No such ordinance granting a franchise shall be put on final passage within thirty (30) days after the first reading nor within twenty (20) days after any amendment thereto, and the affirmative vote of nine (9) Councilors shall be required to pass the same.

Section 10-208. Effective Date.

No franchise shall take effect until sixty (60) days after its passage unless it shall receive a majority of the votes cast thereon at a referendum election held for that purpose within a less time. The filing of a petition for referendum shall defer the taking effect of a franchise until after the election. A petition signed by two thousand (2,000) registered voters shall be sufficient to call a referendum upon any franchise ordinance.

Section 10-212. Written Acceptance.

Every grantee of any franchise, right or privilege shall within thirty (30) days after the ordinance granting the same shall be enforced, file with the City Auditor Recorder a written acceptance of the same, and a failure on the part of the grantee to file such written acceptance within the time specified shall be deemed an abandonment and rejection of the rights and privileges conferred, and the ordinance granting the same shall thereupon be null and void; such acceptance shall be unqualified and shall be construed to be an acceptance of all the terms, conditions and restrictions contained in the ordinance granting the same.

Section 10-2113. Statements.

Within ninety (90) days after this Charter shall take effect, the holder of any franchise shall file with the Auditor a full and correct statement of the franchise, rights and privileges owned or claimed to be owned, and shall designate the same by the numbers and titles of the ordinances by which such franchises were granted, and any holder of any franchise, on failure so to do, shall be guilty of an offense punishable by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10) and not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) per day while such refusal or neglect continue. The holder of every franchise, and the grantees of every franchise hereafter granted, on sale, transfer, mortgage or lease being made of such franchise, shall within sixty (60) days thereafter file with the Auditor a copy of the deed, agreement, mortgage, lease, or other written instrument evidencing such sale, transfer or lease, certified and sworn to as correct by the grantee, in person, if an individual, or by the president or secretary or authorized agent, if a corporation.

Every sale, transfer, mortgage or lease of such franchise, whether voluntary or involuntary, shall be deemed void and of no effect unless the grantee shall, within sixty (60) days after the same shall have been made, file such certified copy as required by this Section and consented to as provided in Section 10-216 of this Charter, also unless the Council agrees to such sale by an ordinance expressly passed for that purpose, as provided by Section 10-216.

The Auditor shall file all such documents and shall make and keep an index of the same in a book to be kept by the Auditor for that purpose, which book shall be a part of the public records of the City.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The City's Office for Community Technology initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau's memo describing the proposal on page 16 of this [document](#).

The bureau's proposal is to remove outdated, burdensome and redundant requirements for franchise agreements, including

- Clarify that the right of way includes the spaces under and above the streets and highways
- Delete the detailed formal process pending franchises such as the requirement to publish the proposed ordinance in full in the newspaper
- Delete the requirement that franchises cannot take effect until 60 days after passage
- Delete the requirement for written acceptances
- Delete the reference to fine amounts and delete the requirement that the Auditor retain the records

The Commission's Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Charter Commissioners met with Office for Community Technology leadership to discuss the proposal.

PROPOSAL #7: Remove the 5% cap on transient lodgings tax.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, the City is limited to assessing a 5% tax on the amount paid for the privilege of occupancy or lodging in hotels, motels and short-term rentals.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the City would be able to assess a higher tax on transient lodging. The Portland limit was set at a time when typical transient lodging tax rates were lower in Oregon and across the country.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to amend Charter Section 7-113. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

Section 7-113. Transient Lodgings Tax.

1. The Council may by ordinance impose and levy a tax ~~not exceeding five percent~~ on gross amounts of money, credit or other things of value paid to or received for lodging by the owner or operator of any hotel, motel, apartment or lodging house, mobile home or trailer park or court, or any other place in the City where space designed or intended for lodging occupancy is rented by any person or persons, for any period less than monthly. This tax shall not apply to hospitals, convalescent or nursing homes, or public institutions, or permanent occupancy as defined by ordinance. Minimum rentals to which the tax shall apply may be fixed by ordinance. The tax imposed shall be collected by the owner or operator of the rental space in addition to the rental charge, at the time of payment of rent. City revenues from such taxes shall be credited to the General Fund of the City and used for general City purposes, as the Council may find appropriate, which may include provision for and the acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance of recreational, cultural, convention or tourist-related facilities or services.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact but may result in the City's ability to collect increased revenue.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The City's Revenue Division of the Bureau of Revenue & Financial Services initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau's memo describing the proposal on page 2 of this [document](#) (please note that this memo contains additional charter amendments beyond the proposal to remove the 5% cap on transient lodgings tax).

Transient lodging tax must be collected by anyone who collects payment for occupancy of any short-term lodging. Examples of these types of lodging include:

- Hotels and motels
- Bed and breakfast facilities
- Spaces used for RV parking or erecting a tent during periods of human occupancy
- Resorts and inns
- Lodges and guest ranches
- Cabins
- Condominiums
- Apartments and duplexes
- Houses
- Any other dwelling unit, or portion of a dwelling unit, used for temporary stays

The bureau's reason for the proposed amendment is that the 5% rate was set at a time when customary transient lodgings tax rates were much lower in Portland and across the country.

The Commission's Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Charter Commissioners met with Office of Management & Finance leadership to discuss the proposal.

PROPOSAL #8: Increase Risk Management's settlement authority from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Please Note: An increase to the City's Division of Risk Management's authority to settle claims was part of the larger measure on the ballot in November. Because that measure passed, this proposed amendment will not move forward because it is unnecessary. We are leaving the placeholder here so people can track proposal numbers.

PROPOSAL #9: Update, and make consistent, references to "protected classes".

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, the Charter includes multiple references to protected classes but always describes the protected classes differently.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, all references to protected classes would use the following updated and consistent language: “protected class under local ordinance, or state or federal law.”

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

The proposal is to amend Charter Sections 2-1008, 4-101, 12-102. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

Section 2-1008. Duties of the Board

(b) All complaints of force that result in injury, discrimination against a protected class under local ordinance, or state or federal law, violations of federal or state constitutional rights.

Section 4-101. Merit Principle.

All appointments and promotions to positions in the classified service shall be made solely on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by a valid and reliable examination or other objective evidence of competence. Such appointments and promotions shall provide fair and equal opportunity without regard to protected classes under local ordinance, or state or federal law ~~race, religion, gender, marital and family status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, source of income, and such other criteria as determined by the City Council by ordinance~~. The goal of the merit system is a workforce that reflects the aspirations and values of the City it serves.

Section 12-102. Regulations and Restrictions.

The Mayor may make regulations and impose restrictions on public use of parks, recreational areas and facilities as found needed and appropriate, may exclude some or all kinds of vehicles from all or particular areas of any park or facilities, may limit to a particular class or classes of persons those permitted to use any particular area or facility if the limitation is not based on a protected class under local ordinance, or state or federal law ~~race, color, creed or national origin~~, and may restrict the kinds and times of public use.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background

The City’s Bureau of Development Services and the City’s Office of Equity & Human Rights initiated this proposal. You can read the Bureau of Development Services’ memo describing the proposal on page 23 of this [document](#) and the Office of Equity & Human Rights’ memo describing the proposal on page 14 of this [document](#).

The reason for the proposed amendments is to make the charter’s references to protected classes consistent.

The Commission’s Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

PROPOSAL #10: Replace “disability” with “incapacity” when referencing an elected official’s inability to perform their duties.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

Currently, the word “disability” is used to describe situations where an elected official is unable to perform their duties.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the word “incapacity” would be used in place of “disability.” This change reflects the reality that an elected official can be or become disabled and still perform their duties.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

The proposal is to amend Charter Sections 2-206, 2-110. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

Section 2-206. Vacancies in Office, Filling of Vacancies.

In the event of the death or ~~disability incapacity~~ preventing the performance of six (6) or more Councilors due to natural disaster, calamity, accident or enemy attack, the following City officials in the order named succeed to the vacancies on the City Council: Chiefs of Staff of deceased or ~~disabled incapacitated~~ Councilors, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Auditor and Mayor. In the event of the death or ~~disability incapacity~~ preventing the performance of the Mayor due to natural disaster, calamity, accident or enemy attack, the Mayor’s Chief of Staff succeeds to the vacancy. A Councilor or Mayor may resume performance if the ~~disability incapacity~~ no longer prevents performance.

Section 2-110. Organization

At its first regular meeting each calendar year, or oftener at its option, the Council shall elect a President and Vice President by majority vote of those present. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council. In the ~~President’s~~ absence or ~~disability incapacity~~, the Vice President of the Council shall perform the duties of the President. In the absence or ~~disability incapacity~~ of both President and Vice President, the other members of the Council shall select one of their number to perform the duties of President and Vice President during such absence.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The City’s Office of Equity & Human Rights initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau’s memo describing the proposal on page 10 of this [document](#).

The bureau’s reason for the proposed amendment is that an elected official can become disabled and still perform their duties.

The Commission’s Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Charter Commissioners met with Office of Equity & Human Rights leadership to discuss the proposal.

PROPOSAL #11: Create an Independent Portland Elections Commission.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

Currently, the Portland Elections Commission exists in Portland City Code, which can be amended at any time by the City Council.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the Independent Portland Elections Commission would exist in the Charter, which can only be amended by the affirmative vote of a majority of Portland voters. Creating the Commission and authorizing the Commission to implement public financing and other elections programs, in the Charter helps insulate the public financing program from real and perceived conflicts of interest by elected officials who may use the program to run for reelection.

Redline (prepared by the City's Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to add Charter Section 3-401. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

CHAPTER 3 – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 4. INDEPENDENT PORTLAND ELECTIONS COMMISSION.

Section 3-401. Authority and Duties.

The Independent Portland Elections Commission is established. The Commission implements the City's public financing of elections program as adopted by ordinance. The Commission may implement any other law or program related to elections, campaign finance or related subjects if delegated by City Council or the Auditor to the Commission.

The Independent Portland Elections Commission consists of nine City residents who collectively represent the City's diversity. To fill vacancies, the Commission recommends candidates for Mayoral appointment and City Council confirmation. Commission members may be removed prior to the completion of the member's term according to this Charter or by a process outlined in the Commission's bylaws.

The Independent Portland Elections Commission annually notifies the Mayor and City Council of the funding required to ensure the solvency of the public financing of elections program and other duties carried out by the Commission. The Commission has a budget as provided by Council.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The City's Small Donors Program initiated this proposal. You can read the bureau's memo describing the proposal on page 1 of this [document](#).

The Commission's Bureau & Office Proposals Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Charter Commissioners met with the Director of the Small Donors Program to discuss the proposal. Current Portland Elections Commissioners submitted public comment about the proposal. City staff met with Commissioner Rubio's Office who currently oversees the program.

As of November 3, 2022, the Charter Commission received 7 public comments related to the Portland Elections Commission– representing less than 1 percent of all public comment received. These comments point to the need to make the Portland Elections Commission independent.

PROPOSAL #12: Create an article dedicated to environmental issues that includes environmental justice as a core value of the City, requires the City to assess the climate impact of its decisions and establishes a right to a clean and healthy environment.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, there is no language in the Charter specific to environmental issues.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment: (1) environmental justice would become a core value of the City, in addition to any other core values adopted by the City Council; (2) the City would assess the climate impact of its decisions and actively manage the decline of fossil fuel use within its boundaries; and (3) all residents would have a right to a clean and healthy environment.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to add Charter Sections 2-1101, 2-1102, 2-1103. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

CHAPTER 2 – GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE 11. ENVIRONMENT.

Section 11-1101. Environmental Justice.

Environmental justice is a core value of the City. Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of protected classes under local ordinance, or state or federal law, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice is achieved when all Portland residents enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, work, learn, and play. The City Council may adopt additional core values of the City.

Section 11-1102. Climate Commitment.

The City must establish climate action goals. By July 2026, the City must assess the climate impact of its decisions. The assessment must integrate environmental justice and the best available science. The assessment must evaluate City projects and policies; help prevent City projects and policies inconsistent with the City's climate action goals; and ensure decisions are informed, particularly decisions that impact capital investments or areas where the City exercises environmental, safety, land use, zoning, or design review authority.

The City must actively manage the decline of fossil fuel use within its boundaries, consistent with environmental justice, public health, seismic resiliency, and the best available science.

Section 11-1103. Environmental Right.

All Portland residents including those of future generations have a right to a clean and healthy environment. The City must equitably protect this right for all its residents.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

This proposal requires the City to assess the climate impacts of its decisions. The City Budget Office interprets this proposal as requiring the City to provide proactive climate assessments on all capital projects and major policy, land use and zoning changes. This requirement would be a major initiative; for example, the City currently has over 416 capital projects underway. The City Budget Office is still working on a full range of cost estimates to implement this proposal, but currently estimates that the low end cost range would be \$14.4 million annually to implement (in Fiscal Year 2025-26 dollars). The lower end estimate includes costs for staffing in all five major infrastructure bureaus (four full-time staff

per infrastructure bureau for \$2.4M), staffing in the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (three full-time staff for \$600,000), training support (\$500,000), and consultancy support (assumes 50 of the 416 project require consultant assistance at \$200,000/project for \$10.9M once adjusted for inflation over two years). This funding would come from multiple bureau sources, including the General Fund and Water and Sewer ratepayer funds. The City Budget Office is working to refine the higher end cost estimate and anticipates having more information in the next 1-2 weeks.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The Charter Commission's Climate & Environmental Subcommittee initiated this proposal. The Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Public comment

As of November 3, 2022, the Charter Commission received 221 public comments related to climate and environmental justice – representing 12.2 percent of all public comment received. These comments point to the urgency of the climate implications happening in the city and that there is no time to wait. Many groups reiterated that the time is now to address climate in the charter and urged the City of Portland to lead on strong environmental policy focusing not only on mediation, but also adaption and resiliency.

Many comments stressed the importance of actionable and accountable directives or language in the charter. Some common recommendations from public input included establishing a climate oversight committee or Commission, establishing a bureau or office of climate and environmental justice, establishing a bill of environmental rights and responsibilities for the city, embedding a climate and environmental justice overlay into the charter, adding a fossil fuel phase out commitment, and establishing a participatory budgeting program. In addition, there was an overarching sense of urgency around helping the communities most effected by climate change and that any policies should prioritize and focus on frontline and underrepresented communities.

Public comment came from individuals as well as organizations: 350PDX, Democratic Socialists of America, Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Participatory Budgeting Oregon, Portland Metro People's Coalition, Public Employees Act for Climate (PEACE), and Sunrise Movement PDX.

Community Listening Sessions

In fall 2022, the Commission held two community listening sessions on climate and environmental justice – one hosted by the Charter Commission and one hosted by United Oregon. The sessions included an educational presentation followed by small breakout group discussions. In total, 93 people participated. Listening sessions' themes included

- Bold climate action is needed
- The impacts of climate change are already being felt by Portlanders
- Direct relation between climate and housing
- Vulnerable populations should be given priority
- Climate-related charter amendments need to have clear, binding requirements

Participants shared many ideas and recommendations on how to address climate and environmental justice:

- Include a fossil fuel phase out directive directly in the charter
- Implement participatory budgeting by 2025
- Establish a climate assembly
- Add environmental rights and responsibilities to the City's core values
- Establish clear and accessible pathways for all Portlanders to engage in climate decision-making
- Includes tribes in decision-making

- Increase urban tree canopy
- Expand public transportation system with a sustainable and reliable transportation network
- Establish better waste management systems and services for unhoused communities
- Develop affordable and sustainable housing solutions
- Invest in and expand existing programs that will allow for community members to switch to clean energy

The Commission recognizes that not all ideas emerging from listening sessions are best addressed through charter reform. You can read the full listening session report [here](#).

Stakeholder Meetings

All organizations who submitted public comment were asked if they wanted to provide detailed recommendations to the Commission. Three organizations provided presentations to the Climate and Environmental Justice Subcommittee: Portland Employees Act on Climate Emergency (PEACE), 350PDX, and Sunrise Movement PDX.

Sunrise Movement PDX

Recommended the following: adding a binding climate test; requiring a fossil fuel phase-out; and requiring prior and informed consent for tribes on all legislation which impact them.

PEACE

Recommended the following: creating an of Office of Climate Emergency; climate as a special power and core value; Portland as a carbon emission free city and community by 2040; renewable energy alignment; protect rights of nature, right to nature; regenerative circular economy; and expanded representation for youth.

350PDX

Recommended the following: creating a climate assembly; adding Portland's environmental rights and responsibilities; and requiring participatory budgeting. In addition, they are currently working on two emerging proposals related to fossil fuel phase-out and prior consent and tribal consultation.

PROPOSAL #13: Establish meaningful public engagement as a core value of the City.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

Currently, the City must comply with the Oregon Public Meetings and Public Records Laws, but public engagement is not explicitly referenced in the Charter.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, meaningful public engagement would become a core value of the City, in addition to any other core values adopted by the City Council.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney’s Office)

The proposal is to add Charter Section 1-108. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

CHAPTER 1 – CORPORATE EXISTENCE AND POWERS

ARTICLE 1. POWERS, RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES.

Section 1-108 Public Engagement.

Meaningful public engagement is a core value of the City. Meaningful public engagement means regular, consistent, transparent, and accessible mechanisms for residents to engage on issues that directly impact communities, and to have resident voices heard and integrated in making laws and policies. Meaningful public

engagement is achieved when all Portland residents enjoy the same degree of access to the City's decision-making processes. The City Council may adopt additional core values of the City.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

No direct financial impact.

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The Charter Commission's Climate & Environmental Justice Subcommittee initiated this proposal. The Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

While this proposal originated in the Climate & Environmental Justice Subcommittee based on community input related to meaningful public engagement in climate decision-making, the Commission's proposal is not limited to climate decision-making at the City.

Proposal #14: Require the City to create by ordinance a participatory budgeting program open to all residents.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, the City has no participatory budgeting program.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the City would need to create a participatory budgeting program where Portland residents would be responsible for allocating at least 1% of the City's General Fund discretionary ongoing resources. The decisions would be binding.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to add Charter Section 2-129. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

CHAPTER 2 – GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE 1. THE COUNCIL.

Section 2-129. Participatory Budgeting.

To further public engagement and democratic involvement in city spending, the City must create by ordinance a participatory budgeting program open to all residents, consistent with the Oregon Local Budget Law. Annual funding for the program must be no less than 1% of the City's General Fund discretionary ongoing resources, and the public's funding allocation decisions must be binding. The program must begin operating no later than July 2026.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

The proposal would require the City to set aside 1% of the City's General Fund discretionary resource for reallocation to City bureaus and services through a participatory budgeting process. Using the latest forecast information, a 1% General Fund discretionary set aside beginning in Fiscal Year 2025-26 would be \$7.3 million. *(Note, this figure may be updated in December due to an updated forecast coming available).*

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The Charter Commission's Climate & Environmental Subcommittee initiated this proposal. The Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Public comment

As of November 3, 2022, the Charter Commission received 114 public comments related to participatory budgeting – representing 6.3 percent of all public comment received. The comments ask the Charter Commission to forward an amendment that establishes a city-wide participatory budgeting program that would allow community members to directly allocate City funds to top priorities. Some comments asked to allocate a minimum of 10% of the annual General Fund budget and a minimum of 5% of annual parks and transportation-related capital improvement expenditures.

Community Listening Sessions

The Commission held two [community listening sessions on climate and environmental justice](#) – one hosted by the Charter Commission and one hosted by Unite Oregon. The sessions included an educational presentation followed by small breakout group discussions. In total, 93 people participated. One of the recommendations that emerged from these sessions was to implement participatory budgeting by 2025, and by 2030 the City of Portland allocates a minimum of 10% of the annual General Fund budget and a minimum of 5% of annual parks and transportation-related capital expenditures through Citywide participatory budgeting.

Stakeholder meetings

Charter Commissioners met with Participatory Budgeting Oregon, Next Up, and members of Youth Voice, Youth Vote to discuss participatory budgeting. A meeting recording and summary is available [here](#).

Proposal #15: Expand right to vote in City elections to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Brief Impartial Narrative (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

Currently, state law provides that Portland residents who are United States citizens 18 years of age or older are eligible to register to vote.

Under the proposed amendment advanced for public comment, the City would be required to extend the right to vote, including to noncitizens, to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Redline (prepared by the City Attorney's Office)

The proposal is to add Charter Section 3-111. Please note: added language is underlined; deleted language is struck through.

CHAPTER 3 – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROCEDURE.

Section 3-111. Right to Vote in City Elections.

The City must extend the right to vote, including but not limited to extending the right to vote to noncitizens, in elections for City elected officials and on City measures, to the fullest extent allowed by law. The City must conduct periodic voter education campaigns to familiarize voters with voter eligibility.

Financial Impact (prepared by the City Budget Office)

This proposal would require the City to conduct periodic voter education campaigns to familiarize voters with voter eligibility estimated to cost \$100,000 annually (or \$200,000 per two-year election cycle).

Charter Review Background & Engagement

The Charter Commission's Expansion of Voting Rights Subcommittee initiated this proposal. The Subcommittee advanced this proposal to the full Commission. On October 18, 2022, the full Commission voted to advance the proposal for public comment.

Public comment

As of November 3, 2022, the Charter Commission received 7 public comments related to right to vote and expanding voting eligibility – representing less than 1 percent of all public comment received. Public comments asked the Charter Commission to refer an amendment that would allow expand voting rights to non-citizens and people aged 16 and older.

Community Listening Sessions

In November 2021, the Charter Commission and community partners hosted 12 community listening sessions with 283 participants. Ten of these sessions were hosted by community partners, while two were hosted by the Commission. All sessions included an educational presentation followed by small breakout groups to discuss Portlanders' lived experience with city government and two breakout group discussion questions related to voting:

- What barriers do you or your friends, family, or community experience voting in our City Council elections?
- What would make voting easier to participate in?

An overwhelming majority of participants in the partner-hosted listening sessions shared that accessibility was the main barrier to participating in City Council elections. Participants identified a range of accessibility barriers including voting education, voter registration, citizenship status, the process of voting, language, and location that made voting difficult or discouraging.

- A clear area participants identified as a barrier to participating in voting was a lack of voting education. Many communities did not have a foundational understanding of why voting is important or how voting can connect to the wellbeing of their communities. This directly tied to a lack of information about the city government in which participants also shared that they were not aware of who the agents were that could make their voice heard, who elected leaders are, or what they are responsible for.
- Another area participants identified as a barrier to participating in voting was voter registration. Many communities did not have the information about how to register to vote or understand why they should. Additionally, the requirements to be able to register to vote including citizenship status, proof of government-issued identification, and age were all named as barriers. The lack of home addresses for unhoused community members is also a barrier that can prevent folks from receiving a ballot or being able to register to vote.
- Citizenship status was a barrier that was heard across several organizations, in which participants shared they were unable to vote. Many participants felt that any resident of Portland should have the ability to vote, regardless of citizenship status, since they are impacted by all the decisions of elected leaders and the city.
- The process of voting was a barrier that a majority of participants highlighted. This included the timing of elections, how the process works in general, and the difficulty of processing the information on voters' pamphlets or lack of additional outlets for more information about ballot measures and candidates.
- The barrier of language for community members who don't speak English or prefer another language was a significant barrier that many participants shared impacts their ability to vote. These participants collectively agreed that more information is needed in their language presented in a culturally appropriate manner to make

voters feel comfortable processing the information and understanding what they are voting for. The ballot, voters' pamphlet, and advertising about the elections should all be available in multiple languages.

- The location of ballot drop boxes was identified as a barrier, especially for communities that live in East/Southeast Portland, and those who are disabled, elderly, or working class. Participants noted that most ballot drop boxes are placed towards the inner city and there must be more drop box sites in outer regions.

In the Commission-hosted listening sessions participants shared they want all Portlanders to be enthusiastic about voting and access to voting should be increased. While Portlanders are enthusiastic about vote-by-mail, participants offered suggestions for improvements such as:

- Increase the number of ballot drop boxes
- Improve voters' pamphlets and make them available in more languages
- Permit same-day voter registration
- Don't require an address to register to vote
- Make getting a replacement ballot easier
- Expand voter access to Portland residents who are not citizens

You can read the full report of the partner-hosted listening sessions [here](#) and the Commission-hosted sessions [here](#).

Stakeholder Meetings

Charter Commissioners met with the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), City Commissioner Carmen Rubio's Office, Multnomah County Commissioner Jayapal, the Multnomah County Youth Commission, Voz and Next Up. Stakeholder input included the following:

- Accessibility is the main barrier to participating in elections;
- Portlanders should feel safe voting;
- Community education and engagement is crucial; and
- Interest in City-County alignment in voting eligibility.

Multnomah County Ballot Measure

Like the City of Portland, Multnomah County's charter provides for periodic review by a Charter Review Committee. The Multnomah County Charter Review Committee (MCCRC) approved the following recommendation for the November 2022 election: *Should charter require county to extend the right to vote, including to noncitizens, to be the fullest extent allowable by law?* You can read the County ballot measure language [here](#). Charter Commissioners met with members of the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee's Equitable Representation Subcommittee to discuss their recommendation.

As of the morning of November 10th, partial results showed 54% voting against the measure and 46% voting for it. The County ballot measure would have applied only to elections for Multnomah County officers and measures NOT City of Portland officers or measures. The measure would not have immediately changed existing voting rights in County elections, but rather would have directed the County to take action to extend the right to vote as allowed by law.

The Charter Commission considers the result of the County ballot measure to be an important data point because the City and County populations and electorates significantly overlap.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Charter Commission wants to continue to hear from community. There are many ways community members can [get involved](#) in charter review including giving verbal public comment, submitting written public comment, requesting a briefing or joining any of our upcoming meeting.

Ways to Provide Input

The Charter Commission is currently seeking public comment on the proposals outlined above. The public comment period for phase II proposals closes at 7:00 am on Monday, November 28, 2022. Community members can submit public comments in a variety of ways via:

- Online [comment form](#)
- 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

You can also provide public comment at our upcoming public hearings on Thursday, November 17, and Saturday, November 19. You can sign up [here](#).

Stay Engaged

There are many ways to engage with the Commission in coming weeks, below is list of our upcoming meetings. For meeting information please check out the [events sections](#) of our website.

Anytime	Sign up for Charter Commission email updates
Anytime	Learn more about the charter review process
By November 28 at 7am	Submit public comment
November 17	Public hearing
November 19	Public hearing
November 28	Public comment period closes at 7:00am
November 29	Charter Commission work session
December 3	Charter Commission work session