

League of Women Voters of Portland Board-Approved Consensus Questions – City Government Study

1. Of the following possible criteria for evaluating a city government, which do you think are important? (Check as many as you like)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accountability | <input type="checkbox"/> Transparency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Longevity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equity | <input type="checkbox"/> Livability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Efficiency (cost-effectiveness) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Define) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Effectiveness | |

Comment:

2. Check your top 3 options for changing Portland City Government.

- Establish City Council as a legislative body
- Institute a City Manager
- Increase the number of commissioners
- Elect some or all commissioners by district
- Elect commissioners at large (city-wide) but require them to reside in specified districts
- Increase the authority given to the mayor; authorize the mayor to set council agendas and veto council actions
- Retain the current structure
- Other (Describe)

Comment:

3. Check the powers you feel a Mayor should have.

- Set the Council agenda
- Veto Council actions
- Select/dismiss a City manager or department heads
- Have the same vote as other Council members
- Vote only when the Council vote is a tie
- Prepare the city budget
- Run the Council meetings
- Serve as the formal representative of the City
- Other (Describe)

4.. Do you support long-range planning as a city function? How could we strengthen the city's ability to develop long-term policy solutions?

5. Should the city interact proactively with other regional governments?

6. Currently, city commissioners have both legislative and executive powers. Is this a desirable city structure? Why? Why not? If not, what alternative would you prefer?

7. How should our city government get meaningful community input on policy issues? On highly technical issues? How should the officials respond to the input?