

Charter Review Update



A vertical, ornate sign for Portland, Oregon, with the word "PORTLAND" in large, white, serif capital letters on a dark background. The sign is decorated with intricate patterns and has a small "TODAY" sign at the bottom. It is set against a light blue background with a faint image of a building and trees.

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

Portland Charter Commission



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.



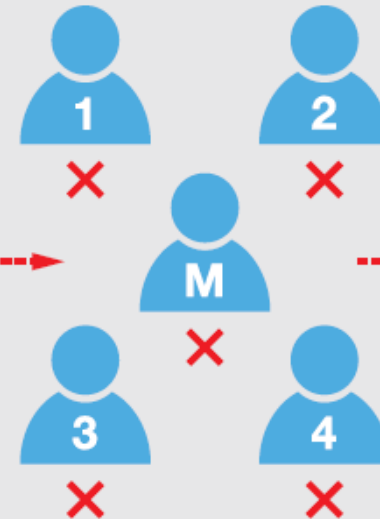
BALLOT

☐ ☐

Y N

OR

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



AMENDMENT

CHARTER REVIEW TIMELINE

We are here



Ballot
Referral



Election



	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
Phase I Issues	Community listening sessions and survey	Progress report released	Preliminary vote on proposals to send for drafting	Charter amendments drafted and financial impact	Drafts released Public hearings	Preliminary vote #2 Ballot titles drafted Final vote	Educate Portlanders on proposed charter amendments				Election	
Phase II Issues			Determine phase II 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	

Desired Outcomes for Charter Reform

1

Participatory and growing democracy with more voices being heard in elections

4

Responsive government with Councilors who understand your community needs

2

Accessible and transparent government with Councilors who are easy to reach

5

Accountable government with Councilors who answer to the people

3

Reflective government with Councilors who look like the community they represent

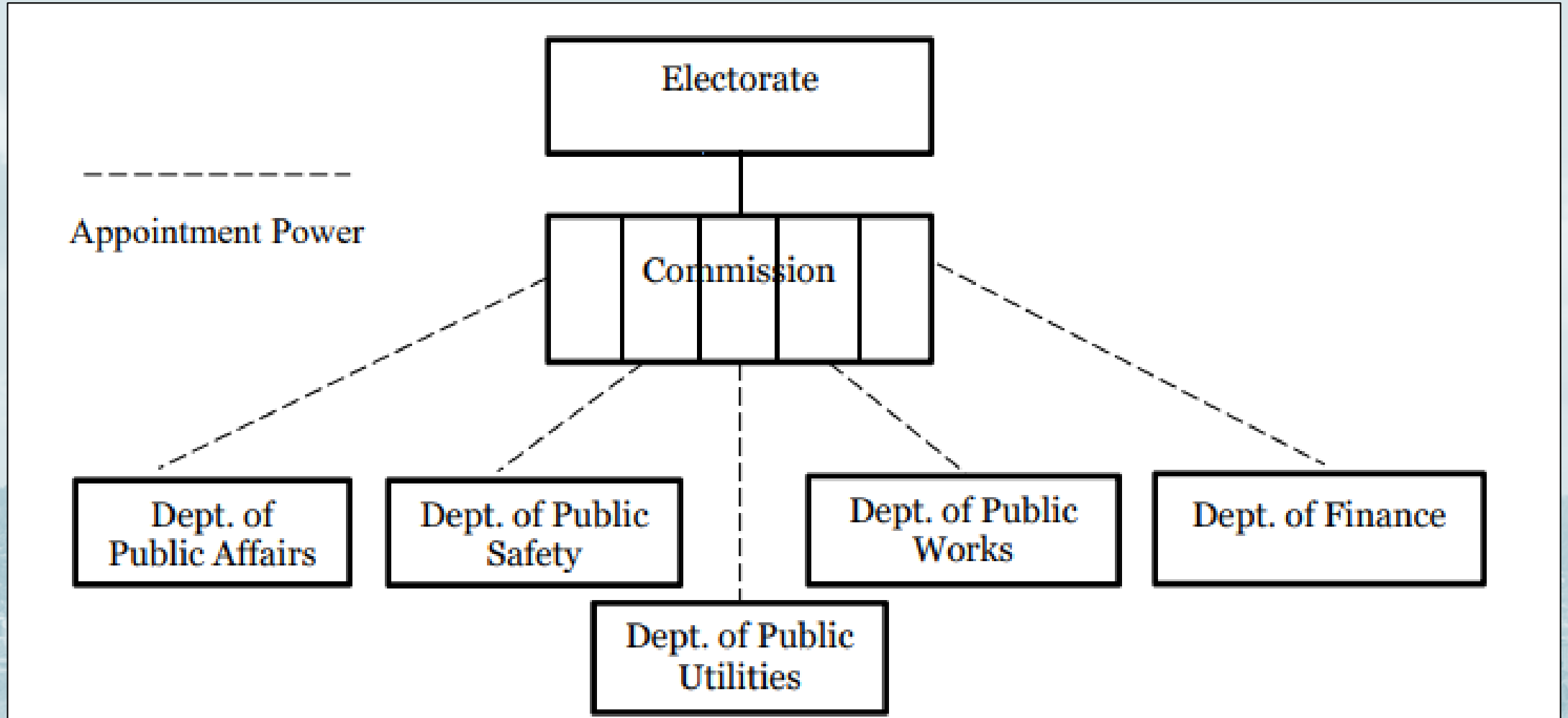
6

Trustworthy government with Councilors who safeguard democracy

Existing conditions and analysis of alternatives



Current form of government: Commission



Source: League of Women Voters of Portland, 2019

Alternative forms of government

Mayor-Council

Mayor: Chief executive, carries out laws and budget

City Council: Law-making body

Chief Administrative Officer:
Runs bureaus, helps carry out the laws (not an elected official), reports to Mayor.

Council-Manager

Mayor: Limited executive power, decides daily policy agenda

City Council: Law-making body

City Manager: Runs bureaus, carries out the laws (not an elected official), and reports to Mayor & City Council.



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)



Alternative constituency

Districts

Single Member, **Multi-Member**, or Mixed

Hybrid

Both district and at-large

Alternative voting methods

Pick One

Vote for one option.

- ☐ Maya
- ☐ Hakim
- ☒ Andres
- ☐ Kyra
- ☐ Elijah
- ☐ Alejandra

STAR Voting

STAR Voting

Score Then Automatic Runoff

No support 0 1 2 3 4 5 Max support

Allen	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bianca	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Chris	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Frank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Ranked Choice Voting

	1	2	3	4	5
Ricardo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jada	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Imani	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vera	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Troy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Areas of Agreement & What's Next





Areas of agreement	Areas for further community and stakeholder engagement, and Commission discussion
To shift the constituency of City Council from all at-large seats and to increase the size of City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size of City Council• Number of districts• Number of Councilors per district• Districting process



Areas of agreement	Areas for further community and stakeholder engagement, and Commission discussion
To shift the constituency of City Council from all at-large seats and to increase the size of City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size of City Council• Number of districts• Number of Councilors per district• Districting process
To shift from the Commission form of government to a form of government in which City Councilors do not directly manage bureaus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council-Manager and Mayor-Council forms of government including how to promote accountability in the Council-Manager form and how to share authority in the Mayor-Council form• Roles and responsibilities of Mayor, Council, and administrator



Areas of agreement	Areas for further community and stakeholder engagement, and Commission discussion
To shift the constituency of City Council from all at-large seats and to increase the size of City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size of City Council• Number of districts• Number of Councilors per district• Districting process
To shift from the Commission form of government to a form of government in which City Councilors do not directly manage bureaus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council-Manager and Mayor-Council forms of government including how to promote accountability in the Council-Manager form and how to share authority in the Mayor-Council form• Roles and responsibilities of Mayor, Council, and administrator
To shift to a form of voting that allows a decision in one election and eliminates the primary, and to adopt a voting method that captures people’s preferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative voting method

A vertical, ornate sign for the city of Portland, Oregon. The word "PORTLAND" is written vertically in large, white, serif capital letters on a dark blue background. The sign is decorated with intricate patterns and a crown-like top. At the bottom, there is a small circular emblem with the word "TODAY" inside.

Requests for City Information

1. **Fiscal impact.** What is the fiscal impact of the reform package? If possible, please consider the potential cost savings of a non-Commission form of government. [City Budget Office]
2. **Ballot measure construction.** How many ballot measures does the reform package entail? Please provide examples of similar ballot measures from other jurisdictions. What happens if interrelated measures don't all pass or fail? [City Attorney's Office]
3. **Transition.** What overall capacity, including leadership and resources, does the City need to make the transitions proposed in the reform package? What can we learn from other cities that have made similar transitions? How much time does the City need to implement the reform package? [Office of the Chief Administrative Officer]
4. **Geographic models.** How does the City currently use geographic models in their work? [compiled by the CAO]
5. **Intergovernmental relations.** How does the reform package impact jurisdictional partners and the City's intergovernmental relationships? [Office of Government Relations]

Phase I Timeline

February 10 th	Progress report released
February 17 th	Commission meets
February 24 th	Progress report v2 released
March 10 th	Commission meets and takes unlimited public comment
March 15 th	Cross-issue committee meeting
March 24 th	Progress report v3 released
March 31st	Commission meets – preliminary vote on recommendations to send for charter amendment drafting and financial analysis
April	City Attorney’s Office drafts charter amendments and descriptions and City Budget Office conducts financial analysis
May 1 st	Proposed charter amendments, descriptions, and financial analyses released
May 15 th -May 31 st	Commission holds at least two public hearings on charter amendments
Early June	Commission meets - preliminary vote on amendments
June	City Attorney’s Office drafts ballot titles
Late June	Commission meets - final vote on charter amendments
Before July 7th	Ballot referral

Ways to engage with Charter Review

Give verbal
public comment
at full
Commission
meetings

Join & engage in
virtual
committee
meetings

Sign up for
monthly email
updates

Join charter
events

Submit written
comment via
email or
comment form

Watch past
recordings online

Request a
briefing or
meeting with
Commissioners
and/staff

Engage
through our
partner
organizations

CharterReview@portlandoregon.gov