



Office of Community Involvement



Multnomah County Charter Review Subcommittee Recommendation Form

Subcommittee name:	Government Accountability Subcommittee
Summary of recommendation:	<p>We recommend adding language to the Charter that reflects Auditor McGuirk’s proposal to clarify the auditor’s access to information and establishes:</p> <p>A guarantee that the auditor will have timely access to records, information, and other materials related to audits.</p> <p>County officials and employees who have access to confidential or limited-access property or records will fully cooperate with the auditor in developing a plan to provide and manage that property or records.</p> <p>The inclusion of a “right to audit” clause in contracts and subcontracts so that the auditor’s office can audit the use of government funds in contracted work.</p>
What section(s) of the Charter is this recommendation likely to impact?	<p>Chapter VIII. Finance</p> <p>Section 8.10 Auditor.</p>
What does this recommendation aim to accomplish?	<p>This amendment would strengthen the Multnomah County Auditor’s authority to get timely access to information. While this is an implied power of the auditor, the current auditor has expressed that having explicit language about the office’s access to information in the Charter will strengthen auditors’ position in receiving timely access.</p> <p>The requirement of a right-to-audit clause for outside contractors and subcontractors would extend the auditor’s ability to fulfill that office’s purpose of auditing the use of government funds.</p>
What MCCRC values is this recommendation grounded in?	<p>Justice; Transparency; Innovation</p>
What potential negative impacts could result	<p>The MCCRC Government Accountability Subcommittee acknowledges that there could be a potential burden on staff or contractors/subcontractors when asked to</p>

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<p>from this recommendation? What are potential obstacles to implementation?</p>	<p>provide information to the auditor. However, the Government Accountability Subcommittee believes this is a reasonable tradeoff in order to ensure transparency and accountability related to taxpayer dollars.</p>
<p>What resources did the subcommittee rely on in making this recommendation? (Link or cite documents)</p>	<p>Written and oral testimony from Multnomah County Auditor Jennifer McGuirk including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment summarizing several proposals for the Charter Review Committee to consider. • Invited testimony from the auditor at the subcommittee’s meetings on March 3rd and May 12th. • A letter responding to information shared by other invited speakers. <p>The subcommittee heard invited testimony from Multnomah Count Chair Deborah Kafoury, Sheriff Mike Reese, and Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal at the subcommittee’s April 28th meeting.</p> <p>The subcommittee heard from invited speakers, Portland Auditor Mary Hull Caballero and former Multnomah County Auditor Gary Blackmer at its April 14th meeting.</p> <p>The committee reviewed model language from the Association of Local Government Auditors.</p> <p>The subcommittee received several public comments in support of the auditor’s proposals, including enshrining the auditor’s access to timely information.</p>

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Multnomah County Charter Review Committee

Shared Values

Justice:

- Healing and justice are central to Multnomah County's government
- Justice extends to all people, and especially people who have been historically marginalized.
- Leading with race is important because of the inequities embedded in governance, with the understanding that it will help create an intersectional approach to this work.

Inclusive democracy:

- Multnomah County's government depends on active participation and representation of the communities people live in.
- People can access and participate in government using their preferred language.
- Outreach is a key value of democracy:
 - Decisions are informed by culturally-specific research and outreach.
 - Relationships should be an authentic, long lasting partnership; they should not be transactional in nature.

Access and belonging:

- People know how to access their leaders and decision-makers.
- People feel that they (and their communities) are a part of decision-making.
- Government reflects the communities it represents.

Transparency:

- People understand how their county government works.
- People are able to be heard by their government, and influence decision-making.
- Communication with the public by the government is clear, and communities are sought out for their input.

Innovation:

- Government is able to change and adapt to address historic and persistent problems.
 - Change is embraced as a way to better serve communities.
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