



Office of Community Involvement

Multnomah County Charter Review Subcommittee Recommendation Form



Subcommittee name:	Government Accountability Subcommittee
Summary of recommendation:	<p>We recommend tasking the Office of Community Involvement with running the application and selection processes for the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee, including outreach, application collection and evaluation, and appointment. We also recommend that the selection process ensure an even distribution between county districts, requiring four members for each district for a total of 16 MCCRC members. There will no longer be a requirement in the Charter that members serving within the same district be registered with different political parties.</p> <p>We recommend including language in the Charter that clarifies that members of the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee (MCCRC) remain eligible to serve if they move between districts after being appointed. We also recommend giving the Office of Community Involvement discretion to develop a process for filling Charter Review Committee vacancies.</p>
What section(s) of the Charter is this recommendation likely to impact?	Chapter XII, Section 12.40.
What does this recommendation aim to accomplish?	<p>Having the Office of Community Involvement running the application and selection processes for the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee would simplify them. It would also ensure a more timely selection process that no longer relies on state representatives to be responsive to county staff. The Government Accountability Subcommittee believes that the Office of Community Involvement, by virtue of having holistic knowledge of the charter review process, is better positioned to ensure a diverse and representative selection of members than state representatives who are not as close to the process, and only appoint members based on their district, thus having no knowledge of the makeup of the entire committee. Further, a timelier selection process would allow applicants to learn about their appointment sooner, giving them more flexibility to plan around their responsibilities as committee members.</p> <p>The subcommittee's additional recommendations would clarify and simplify the process of filling vacancies on the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee. Flexibility around members moving between districts would allow for a less rigid process that may attract a more diverse pool of applicants and prevent burnout among volunteers. Giving the Office of Community Involvement (OCI) the ability to design a process to fill vacancies would allow the OCI to fill gaps in representation on the MCCRC and, in consultation with committee leadership, use common sense judgment to determine at what point filling a vacancy would be counterproductive because a new member would not reasonably have time to catch up on the process.</p>

<p>What MCCRC values is this recommendation grounded in?</p>	<p>Inclusive democracy; access and belonging; transparency</p>
<p>What are the potential fiscal impacts of this recommendation?</p>	<p>The subcommittee does not see any significant fiscal impacts for this recommendation.</p>
<p>What potential negative impacts could result from this recommendation? What are potential obstacles to implementation?</p>	<p>Allowing county staff to select members could potentially be perceived as an appearance of a conflict of interest; however, it does not constitute a conflict of interest in the legal sense, and the selection process proposed by the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee Government Accountability Subcommittee is more common nationwide than the current selection process in which state representatives appoint committee members.</p> <p>The MCCRC Government Accountability Subcommittee sees no negative consequences from allowing members to continue to serve after moving between districts. The subcommittee did discuss a deadline for filling vacancies because at a certain point introducing a member with no prior knowledge of discussions might be disruptive to the process. However, the subcommittee also recognized that OCI might need to fill positions in the unlikely event that many committee members resign and there was consensus that the OCI would use common sense judgment when deciding whether to fill a late-in-the-game vacancy.</p>
<p>What resources did the subcommittee rely on in making this recommendation? (Link or cite documents)</p>	<p>Written and oral testimony from the Office of Community Involvement (OCI):</p> <p>Public comment submitted by OCI</p> <p>Invited speaker, Director of OCI Dani Bernstein, addressed the subcommittee's March 17th meeting</p> <p>Discussion of personal experiences among members of the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee.</p> <p>Public comment, including written public comments submitted by Carol Chesarek on March 26th and May 21st.</p>

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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