



Office of Community Involvement

Multnomah County Charter Review Subcommittee Recommendation Form



Subcommittee name:	Government Accountability Subcommittee
Summary of recommendation:	<p>We recommend revising the timeline of the Multnomah County Charter Review process so that the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee's first meeting occurs in March rather than in September of the year preceding the year when amendments would be referred to the ballot. This would extend the committee's work timeline to 18 months. We also recommend removing the specific dates for the application process.</p> <p>We recommend revising charter language to reflect that the MCCRC may choose its own leadership structure.</p> <p>We recommend including language in the Charter that explicitly requires the Board of Commissioners to budget for a meaningful public engagement process for the work of the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee (MCCRC). This language will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the Office of Community Involvement shall take reasonable steps to engage the residents of Multnomah County <u>with</u> the purpose of <u>informing them about</u> the Charter review committee and the opportunity to serve on the committee, and shall endeavor to produce a diverse pool of applicants.• The Board of County Commissioners shall appropriate sufficient funds for the Office of Community Involvement to carry out its duties <u>and to adequately conduct a public education, outreach and engagement process to give the community the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the charter review process. The public outreach and engagement process shall be consistent with the equity and inclusion values of Multnomah County in general.</u>
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>The first part of this recommendation would provide the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee with an additional six months of review time, which would increase the amount of time for public outreach, education, and input, and also ensure a more thorough charter review with more opportunity for education, research, testimony and discussion.</p> <p>The second part clarifies the committee's ability to choose its own leadership structure, which this Charter Review Committee opted to do in electing its tri-chairs.</p> <p>The last part, concerning community involvement in the Charter review process, would place emphasis on the importance of public engagement and clarify that the</p>

	<p>Board of County Commissioners must budget for the public engagement process to happen in a way that allows the public to meaningfully engage with members of the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee. The intent of this amendment is to make sure that the Office of Community Involvement has sufficient funds to contract with community partners to conduct outreach and public engagement in tandem with the charter committee's work so community input can be more effectively incorporated into the committee's recommendations. Being able to rely on the availability of these funds would in turn allow OCI to design a more comprehensive process around public engagement that would be inherited by future staff during future rounds of charter review.</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>Lengthening the process will require additional funding for facilitation, staff salary, and committee member stipends to cover the additional months of work.</p> <p>Multnomah County would need to provide adequate funding for community engagement, which could include hiring staff or a contractor to facilitate community education and engagement and providing stipends to community members for participating in engagement efforts.</p>
<p>What potential negative impacts could result from this recommendation? What are potential obstacles to implementation?</p>	<p>An extended process could potentially cause a greater workload for county staff. It is also possible that some potential applicants would be deterred by a longer process, or that a longer process might cause volunteer burnout. However, based on the committee's own experience, we deem this unlikely and believe that extending the process will make review less taxing on volunteers by virtue of relieving some of the pressure that comes with a compressed schedule.</p> <p>The subcommittee does not see negative impacts for the other parts of the recommendation.</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 comment submitted by Carol Chesarek on March 26th.</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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