
Multnomah County Charter

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Office of Community Involvement



Home Rule History

Before “Home Rule”:

Counties’ structures and powers are explicitly determined by the state legislature

1958:

Oregon state constitutional amendment allows home rule, expands counties’ ability to self-govern

1966:

Multnomah County adopts home rule charter



Our Charter Includes:

County characteristics (name, boundaries, seat of government)

Scope of county's powers

Elected offices (county commissioners, sheriff, auditor):
requirements and powers

County election rules

Compensation for elected officials

Library district

Local public improvement projects

Charter review process



Charge to the Charter Committee

Comprehensive Charter Review

- Study charter
- Hold meetings & hearings; receive testimony and interview witnesses
- Review section on commissioners' compensation



Report on Findings

- Report findings, conclusions and recommendations to the people and Board of Commissioners 95 days before 2022 election



Optional: Recommend Amendments

- Identify and recommend changes to charter to voters
- Approve draft language for charter and ballot



A Good Charter:

Establishes a general governance structure

Is easy to understand

Maintains consistency

Is thorough, but flexible



Committee Timeline

