

July 6, 2016

Dear Chair Leonard and Multnomah County Charter Review Committee,

I am Greg Malinowski. I have an organic family farm. Most of my farm is in Multnomah County, but part of the farm, and my house, is in Washington County.

I was sworn in as Washington County Commissioner in January 2011. Before then I was involved in Multnomah County as a citizen who wanted to protect my farm from urban development. I know how things work in both counties.

Washington County has an appointed County Administrator who reports to the Board of Commissioners.

As a result of that system, I am sometimes unable to do what your Commissioners can do today – I can't advocate for my constituents when they have issues with the county.

- Currently, your County Commissioners can advocate for constituents with county staff.
- I am required to go through what you might call a “handler” who buffers staff from my questions and concerns. Sometimes I get answers to my questions and requests, sometimes I do not. What I have heard includes:
  - “Do not interfere with staff.”
  - I’m only one vote, so I can be ignored by staff and the handler.
  - County Administrator meets weekly with the Chair (not Commissioners) to discuss county operations, leadership is not transparent to the public or Commissioners.
- Unlike Multnomah County, Washington County is not always transparent. Important policies are developed by staff and Chair, but