

Portland Charter Commission Reform Proposal

Here's the package in broad strokes:

1. Transition from a commission-based form of government (where city commissioners are in charge of bureaus) to a mayor-council government with an executive mayor. This will separate the mayor from the council and put city bureaus under the mayor's office, while the council retains its legislative and policymaking power and also approves the city budget.
2. Transition from 4 city commissioners + 1 mayor to 12 city council members + 1 mayor.
3. Create 4 large city council districts that will each elect 3 city councilors. This type of district system is called multi-member districts. The word *multi* refers to there being *multiple* council members per district. Typically, in the United States, districts elect only one representative. Electing several representatives at the same time lowers the threshold of votes needed to get elected. *Note that the mayor will still be elected in a single-winner election.*
4. Introduce proportional ranked choice voting for city elections, also known as single transferable vote. This means that voters will rank candidates in order of preference on the ballot.
5. Eliminate the primary election and hold all elections in November. Elections will be staggered, meaning all four districts won't elect their representatives at the same time. Two districts will vote during presidential years, and that is also when the mayor will be elected. The other two districts will vote in the midterms, and that's also when the auditor will be elected.

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[Post on charter reform package.](#)

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