
Proposal to increase number of commissioners and supporting amendments

Multnomah County Charter
Review Committee

5/2 DRAFT

Proposal: 12 district based commissioners, 1 at-large chair

4 existing districts, 3 reps in each district (4 x 3 = 12)

Chair selected county wide (similar to Metro + City)

13 Commissioners changes representation ratio from 1 rep per 164,800 residents to 1 rep per 63,400

Lowers barrier to entry for individuals to enter elected office

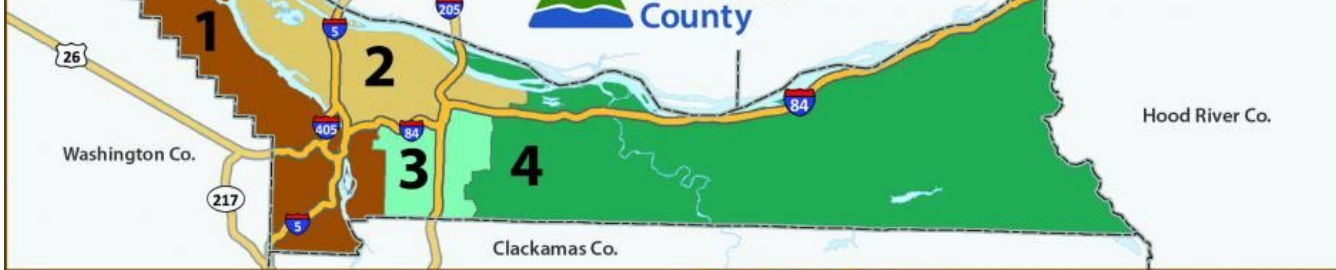
Proposal: Changing voting districts

Could add or subtract 1 district. Could increase voting power in underrepresented areas. Ex: 11 reps = 1 rep per 75,000 ppl (3x3 + 2 at-large)

Auditor's office to lead a community process that takes into account "communities of common interest"

Examples from Metro:

- cities under 20,000 in population
 - School districts
 - underrepresented communities and groups
-



District Street Boundaries in Detail



Addressing financial impact of increasing commissioners

Current: Chair has 9 staff, each other commissioner has 3. Total: 21 FTE + 5 Commissioners = 26 FTE

Proposal: 13 Commissioners + 0 staff

Most duties would be administered through county manager's office, which will likely need some additional FTE to support policy research priorities and liaising with constituents

Proposal: County's Chief Operating Officer (COO) reports to Council, not Chair

Currently COO reports directly to at-large elected chair

COO is similar to a county manager

Proposal is to have COO report to Council, thereby loosening the Chair's power over COO. Most jurisdictions have county/city manager report to council, not Mayor/Chair.

COO is not included in charter but this change is recommended because it is directly related to changing balance of power in favor of geographic districts.

Proposal: Allowing candidates to self declare a political party

Provides voters with modicum of information on a candidate's policy positions

Party organizations can help support candidates and help with voter turnout

Proposal: Election timing

Changes to charter based on election timing best practices

Could include staggering elections similar to City of Portland

Proposal: Eliminate Primary

Changes to charter based on election timing best practices

Similar to Portland
