



Forest Park Neighborhood Association
C/O Neighbors West Northwest
2257 NW Raleigh
Portland, Oregon 97210

June 23, 2022

Re: Proposal to change to using County Districts to select MCCRC members

Dear Multnomah County Charter Review Committee,

Forest Park Neighborhood runs from West Burnside to Cornelius Pass Road, and from Forest Park down to the Washington County line. Most of our neighborhood is in the city of Portland, but our boundary also includes a big chunk of rural unincorporated Multnomah County, outside the city.

At our meeting Tuesday, we discussed the Office of Community Involvement's proposal to select future MCCRC members using the four county districts instead of state Senate districts. **Our board voted unanimously to ask you to continue using Senate districts to select MCCRC members so smaller cities and rural areas are guaranteed a voice on county Charter Review committees.**

Our neighborhood is very aware of the services provided only by Multnomah County for our rural residents. At this week's meeting, we heard from two of the many Portland police officers who serve the urban parts of our neighborhood, and from a Multnomah County Sheriff Deputy who is on patrol here specific days each week. For much of the day, the Sheriff has only one Deputy who is on patrol in western rural Multnomah County. The Deputy offered to personally help us with several community concerns.

We are on a first name basis with many county land use and transportation staff. Pre-Covid, they regularly came to our meetings to give us updates and answer questions.

These are very different, more direct relationships with county staff than with the city. Rural residents depend solely on the county for land use and transportation services (including road maintenance and snow removal) and law enforcement.

Keeping legislative districts for selecting MCCRC members won't directly benefit our neighborhood. Our Senate district includes densely populated parts of Portland likely to generate many more applicants than our unincorporated area would. But rural voices can be represented by other rural areas in the county, providing valuable perspectives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Chesarek
President, Forest Park Neighborhood Association