

QUADRANT ADVISORY RECOMMENDATION
(4 LWV)

5

1/019

presented at meeting April 24, 1978

The Leagues of Women Voters of East Multnomah County and Portland

Position on the Multnomah County Charter:

The Leagues of East Multnomah County and Portland support the separation of legislative and executive powers. Implementation would be achieved by having an executive officer and five commissioners, all to be elected county wide. The executive officer would be elected to a four year term and would have veto power and no vote. His duties and responsibilities would be those administrative powers outlined in the present charter. The five commissioners would be elected to four year staggered terms. Their function would be legislative. An executive veto could be overridden by a 4 to 1 vote. Vacancies would be filled by appointment by the commissioners.

It is imperative that the nondiscrimination clause (7.40.2) include the word sex.

Commentary:

The Leagues, at the time the Home Rule Charter was adopted twelve years ago, supported the concept of the separation of legislative and executive functions, and we still maintain this position. We have proposed that there now be five commissioners, as well as the executive officer, in order that there can be a majority vote on the commission and also recognizing the current growth in the population of Multnomah County.

The Leagues favor county-wide election of all officers, because we believe that county-wide problems need county-wide solutions and a broad perspective is necessary. Also we think the voters of Multnomah County should have the opportunity to vote for all the commissioners.

The Leagues favor four year staggered terms, because we believe that two necessary ingredients of good government are continuity and experience, and that this continuity and experience are difficult to achieve, when every commissioner is running for office every other year.

The Leagues favor filling vacancies by appointment, because we believe that Special elections are costly, the calendar for a special election is almost impossible to work out, the voter turn out is poor, and if the appointee proves to be unpopular with the voters, he/she can be turned out of office at the next general election.

Thank you sent 5/4/78 jrf
+ dist. to Comm.

RECEIVED
Hardy, McEwen, Weiss,
Newman & Faust

APR 19 1978

A.M. P.M.
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April 17, 1978

Mr. John R. Faust, Jr.
Hardy, McEwen, Weiss, Newman, and Faust
1408 Standard Plaza Building
1100 S. W. Sixth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Faust:

The West/North Quadrant Board of Multnomah County, at its recent meeting on April 10th, passed the following motion:

That the County Charter Review Committee receive input, discuss, and then place a package recommendation, which includes the four issues the Committee must consider, on the November ballot, and

That the Committee include in their consideration other issues brought to their attention.

The Quadrant Board expressed its hope that the Review Committee will present to the voters a form of the County Charter which will be inclusive, i.e. a total charter with whatever revisions the Review Committee wishes to recommend. The Quadrant Board also expressed great concern over the "shopping list" concept and opposed any presentation to the voter in this form.

The Quadrant Board also made the following recommendations:

1. That the term of office of County Commissioners be four years,
2. That the Commissioners and Chairman be elected at large,
3. That the Chairman be an executive officer with limited legislative powers, and
4. That Commission vacancies be filled by appointment..

The Board hopes that the County Charter Review Committee will seriously consider these recommendations from an interested, involved, and active citizens group, who is familiar with the aspects of present county management.

Distributed to Comm &
Thank you sent 5/4/78

We look forward to communicating with you in the future, as we consider other issues concerning the revision of the County Charter.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Porter

Ann Porter, Vice Chairman
West/North Quadrant Board



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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6th FLOOR, J. K. GILL BUILDING
426 S.W. STARK STREET
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204
(503) 248-3300

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DON CLARK, Chairman
DAN MOSEE
ALICE CORBETT
DENNIS BUCHANAN
MEL GORDON

3-10-78

TO: MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
401 Wilcox Building, 506 S.W. 6th
Portland, Oregon 97204
227-1631

FROM: THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY S.E. QUADRANT ADVISORY BOARD

The Multnomah County S.E. Quadrant Advisory Board is a representative group of citizens from the Southeast Communities with open public meetings.

It is a thirty-six member board consisting of:

1. Citizen Organizations.....18 members
2. Public and Private Organizations..... 9 members
3. Members-at-Large..... 9 members

We have the responsibility of being an advisory board to the Multnomah County Commissioners.

Our boundaries are from the Willamette River to S.E. 82nd Avenue and from the Banfield Freeway to the Clackamas County Line (S.E. Clatsop).

THE S.E. QUADRANT ADVISORY BOARD MET ON THESE ISSUES:

1. Unanimously in favor of four (4) year terms.
2. Single Member Districts versus members-at-large:
The Board was evenly "split" as there were positives on both sides.
3. Unanimously in favor of the Chairman being elected at large by the whole County.
4. Method of filling vacancies: It was moved that if a Commissioner was appointed before one half of the term was completed then that person must run for office in the next regularly scheduled election.

The person would run only for the two (2) years left of that term. (Motion passed unanimously).

REVENUE BONDING - The S.E. Quadrant Advisory Board suggests that this should be a "separate" issue. They suggest that it be brought up at a different time.