

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON  
ORDINANCE NO. 714

An ordinance adopting and referring to the people legislation to create a Citizens Convention.

Multnomah County ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSES.

A. There remains a great deal of public skepticism and apathy about the performance of local government in Multnomah County.

B. There is a need for citizens of Multnomah County to review and evaluate the delivery of services of all governments within Multnomah County in an effort to provide the greatest efficiency and avoid costly duplication of governmental services.

C. A Citizens Convention offers the opportunity to return government to the people and provide residents a direct role in shaping their future governments and services within Multnomah County.

D. It is important that the recommendations of the Citizens Convention truly reflect the needs and desires of the citizens of Multnomah County. It is the intent of the Board to respect the independence of the Citizens Convention as well as the Citizens Steering Committee which will set up the Citizens Convention.

E. The Board is well aware of economic constraints within the County. It is the Board's intention for private sources to pay for

03/19/92:1

1 the expenses of this process as fully as possible and that no  
2 taxpayer dollars be spent on this citizen effort, with the  
3 exception of validating the petitions required in Sections 2 and 3  
4 below by the Elections Division, and with the exception of  
5 providing -- if requested by the Citizens Steering Committee --  
6 surplus space and equipment as shall be available and potentially  
7 paying the pro-rata share of an election, if required under  
8 Section 4.

9 SECTION 2. PROVISIONS TO CREATE A CITIZENS CONVENTION.

10 A. CITIZENS STEERING COMMITTEE.

11 1. A Citizens Steering Committee (CSC) is hereby authorized  
12 to convene a Citizens Convention to be held during 1992,  
13 as determined by the CSC.

14 2. The CSC shall consist of volunteer members who are  
15 residents of Multnomah County. They shall be appointed  
16 by the Chair and approved by the Board, under the process  
17 of Section 3.70 of the Multnomah County Home Rule  
18 Charter, no later than July 1, 1992, in the following  
19 manner:

20 (a) One member from each of the nine Oregon State  
21 senatorial districts in Multnomah County shall be  
22 selected from a list of four names provided by each  
23 of the political party organizations, as defined in  
24 ORS 248.006, in each of these senatorial districts,  
25 but not more than five shall be from any one  
26 political party.

03/19/92:1

(b) Up to four at large members shall be selected from persons who submit petitions to the Elections Division bearing at least 100 signatures of registered voters of Multnomah County. Each county resident may sign one such petition. The Board will make every reasonable effort to reflect the diversity of Multnomah County, including consideration of residents who are independent voters.

(c) Employees or elected officials of Metro, any county, or any city, are ineligible to serve on the Citizens Steering Committee.

B. The Citizens Steering Committee shall select its own officers, plan for and call a Citizens Convention to be held during 1992, and prepare and present proposals to the Citizens Convention. All meetings of the Citizens Steering Committee shall be open to the public. The Citizens Steering Committee may extend any deadline contained in this ordinance.

SECTION 3. CITIZENS CONVENTION.

A. The delegates to the Citizens Convention (CC) shall be selected by the Citizens Steering Committee no later than September 15, 1992. The CC delegates shall be volunteers who are residents of Multnomah County. They shall be selected in the following manner:

1. One delegate from each precinct in Multnomah County for

03/19/92:1



the precinct boundaries in effect on May 19, 1992 (approximately 349 members), to be selected from nominees from each precinct provided by each of the political party organizations, but not more than 175 of the total selected shall be from any one political party. Any nonprofit organization may also submit suggested delegates to the political party organizations.

2. Members at large, up to a total convention membership of 500, to be selected from Multnomah County residents who submit petitions to the Elections Division bearing at least 25 signatures of registered voters of Multnomah County. Each registered voter may sign one petition. The Citizens Steering Committee will make every effort to reflect the diversity in this County. The Chair and other officers of the Citizens Convention shall be elected by the Citizens Convention pursuant to rules adopted by the Citizens Steering Committee.

B. The Citizens Convention shall review and evaluate proposals submitted by the Citizens Steering Committee and by the members of the Convention concerning the delivery of governmental services, and the Convention Chair shall deliver in writing the recommendations adopted to the Board of County Commissioners for implementing ordinances not later than December 31, 1992. Meetings of the Citizens Convention shall be open to the public.

#### SECTION 4. BOARD ACTION FOLLOWING THE CONVENTION

A. Within thirty days of receipt from the Chair of the

03/19/92:1

1 Convention of each Convention recommendation that requires state  
2 legislative action, the Chair of the Board of Commissioners shall  
3 transmit these recommendations to the Multnomah County members of  
4 the Oregon Legislative Assembly and to the Governor of the State of  
5 Oregon.

6 B. Within ninety days of receipt from the Chair of the  
7 Convention of each Convention recommendation that requires County  
8 legislative action, the Board of Commissioners shall either refer  
9 the legislative action to the voters, adopt the recommendation, or  
10 pass a Resolution containing findings that the recommendation will  
11 not improve the efficiency, economy, or effectiveness of the  
12 delivery of governmental services within Multnomah County.

13 C. Within 30 days of receipt from the Chair of the Convention  
14 of each convention recommendation that requires action by other  
15 units of local government, the Chair of the Board of Commissioners  
16 shall transmit these recommendations to the appropriate governing  
17 bodies of such local government units.

18 SECTION 5. REFERRAL.

19 A. Sections 1-4 of this ordinance shall be submitted to the  
20 voters of Multnomah County at the election to be held May 19, 1992.  
21 The ballot title and voters' pamphlet statement for the measure  
22 shall be substantially in the form attached to this ordinance as  
23 Exhibits 1 and 2.

24 B. Multnomah County Code MCC 4.51.070(B) authorizes the Board  
25 to call an election on a referendum of County legislation less than  
26 90 days after the Board's order calling the election if it has been

03/19/92:1

demonstrated that the public interest would be harmed by waiting the full 90 days. The Board finds in this instance that the public interest would be harmed by waiting for the full 90 days because a November election to start this process would not allow the recommendations for state legislative action to reach the state legislature in time for the start of the 1993 legislative session and because a special election during the summer would shift county general fund dollars away from other programs.

ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 1992.

(SEAL)



By Gladys McCoy  
Gladys McCoy, Chair  
Multnomah County, Oregon

REVIEWED:

By Laurence Kressel  
Laurence Kressel, County Counsel  
For Multnomah County, Oregon

03/19/92:1



EXHIBIT 1

BALLOT TITLE

CAPTION

Citizens Convention to review services of local government in county.

QUESTION

Shall there be a Citizens Convention to adopt recommendations regarding the services provided by local governments in Multnomah County?

SUMMARY

Approval creates a Citizens Steering Committee to select delegates and organize a Citizens Convention. The Citizens Convention shall propose legislation regarding the services provided by governments within Multnomah County. County legislative proposals shall either be adopted, referred to the voters or the Board shall pass a Resolution containing findings stating why the proposal(s) would not improve the efficiency, economy, or effectiveness of the delivery of governmental services. Proposals for other governments shall be referred to those governments.

03/19/92:1

## EXHIBIT 2

## VOTERS' PAMPHLET STATEMENT

There remains a great deal of public skepticism and apathy about the performance of local government in Multnomah County. There is a need for residents of Multnomah County to review and evaluate the delivery of these public services.

Approval of this measure will establish a Citizens Convention which shall adopt proposals to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and other governments regarding the services provided by governments in Multnomah County. Proposals to the County shall either be adopted, referred to the voters, or the Board shall pass a Resolution containing findings that the recommendation will not improve the efficiency, economy, or effectiveness of the delivery of governmental services within Multnomah County. Legislative proposals for other governments shall be referred by the County Chair to those governments.

A Citizens Convention would provide county residents with a direct role in shaping their future governments and services in Multnomah County. The delegates to the Convention will not be selected by the Board of Commissioners but by an independent Citizens Steering Committee on the basis of nominations from the political parties, nonprofit organizations, and voter petitions. The Citizens Steering Committee and the Citizens Convention delegates will be volunteers.

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03/19/92:1