

PRESS PACKET - MATERIAL

1/034

PRESS Packet Material
5/26/78

MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

401 Wilcox Building, 506 S.W. 6th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204 · 227-1631



John R. Faust, Jr., Chairman
Robert A. Burkholder
Del Greenfield
Jean Haliski

Terry Hannon
Kenneth Innis
Norman Lindstedt
Robert L. Mitchell

Larry Mylnechuk
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Anne F. Picco
Robert D. Scholz
William D. Williams
James W. Winters

Julie Keller Gottlieb,
Administrative Secretary

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TIMETABLE

June 5 through 26

Public hearings on proposed
charter amendments **

July

Review of testimony from public
hearings and other sources by
Review Committee to finalize
amendments

late July/early August

Final public hearing on proposals

August 23

Review Committee submits proposed
charter amendments to Multnomah
County Board of Commissioners

November 8

Proposed charter amendments go
before voters in General Election

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Monday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.

Roosevelt High School Cafeteria

Monday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.

Cleveland High School Cafeteria

Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.

Lincoln High School Cafeteria

Monday, June 26, 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Hood Community College
Vista Room

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FACT SHEET

MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Under a plan prescribed by voters in the November, 1977, General Election, the state senator and two state representatives in each state senate district in Multnomah County have appointed two electors, who must be from different political parties, to the Committee.

SCOPE OF COMMITTEE REVIEW:

The Committee is charged to study the charter by all appropriate means, including public hearings and meetings, testimony and interviewing of witnesses.

The Committee is charged to specifically consider:

- 1. Whether or not Multnomah County Commissioners should be elected from single-member districts from within Multnomah County and, if so, the boundaries of such districts
- 2. Whether commissioners should be elected for two or four year terms
- 3. The method of choosing the chairman of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
- 4. The method by which vacancies on the Board of County Commissioners should be filled

The Committee may also consider any other issues relating to the charter.

The Committee will report to the public and the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners by August 23, 1978, "their findings, conclusions and recommendations" including any proposed charter amendments, which will be placed on the November, 1978 ballot.

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BACKGROUND: MULTNOMAH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DECEMBER 22, 1854: Multnomah became a county. Through the first half of the 20th century it operated under a commission system similar to the City of Portland's. The chief executive, however, (County Commission Chairman) was selected by the three county commissioners from their own number, rather than by popular vote.

MAY, 1966: The Home Rule Charter (provisions currently in effect) was passed by the voters. This action

- Created five commission posts
- Provided for direct election of the county chairman through Commission Position 1
- Made several key administrative offices appointive, rather than elective positions

NOVEMBER, 1966: The public voted to go back to the original form, but the vote was set aside on a technicality.

NOVEMBER, 1976: Cook-Otto Amendments, placed on the ballot by initiative petition, were passed by voters. Provisions included:

- Election of county commissioners by single member districts
- Filling of vacancies by election only
- Length of term of office was shortened from four to two years
- County chairman must be elected from his/her own district AND if he/she had not received a county-wide majority vote, could be replaced by a constitutional majority of the entire board

NOVEMBER, 1977: The voters approved repeal of the amendments to the Multnomah County Home Rule Charter and directed appointment of the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee, charged to review the charter and submit proposed amendments, if any, for review by the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and for placement on the November, 1978 Ballot.

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Proposed Charter amendments approved by the Review Committee, in the form of proposed measures:

MEASURE 1: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS SEPARATING COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS, CREATING DISTRICT REPRESENTATION AND PROVIDING FOR TRANSITION:

Establishes five commission positions, two elected at large; three elected from districts.
Sets up procedures for redistricting after 1980 census through county auditor's office and board of commissioners.
Establishes staggered terms of office for commission posts.
Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson selected by board of commissioners annually
Establishes procedures and effective dates for passage of ordinances

MEASURE 4: REQUIRES CONTINUED RESIDENCE OF COMMISSIONERS (This measure is contingent on the passage of Measure 1).

MEASURE 5: PROVIDES THAT ANY COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE BECOMES VACANT ON LONG-TERM DISABILITY OF THE OFFICER.

MEASURE 6: REQUIRES ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES.

Elections will be held within 60 days to fill vacancies occurring 15 months or MORE before the end of elected term. Board fills by appointment any vacancy occurring LESS than 15 months before the end of the elected term.

MEASURE 7: PROHIBITS PERSON APPOINTED TO FILL COMMISSION VACANCY FROM BEING CANDIDATE FOR THAT POSITION IN THE NEXT ELECTION.

MEASURE 8: ESTABLISHES THAT NO EMPLOYEE SHALL BE REFUSED EMPLOYMENT OR BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN ANY MANNER CONTRARY TO STATE LAW.

MEASURE 9: GRANTS REVENUE BONDING AUTHORITY TO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. PROHIBITS REPAYMENT FROM TAXES.

MEASURE 10: SPECIFIES THAT ALL ELECTIVE COUNTY OFFICES SHALL BE NONPARTISAN.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT SUMMARY -2-

MEASURE 11: ELIMINATES GENDER REFERENCES IN CHARTER AND PERMITS BOARD TO DELETE OBSOLETE AND UNNECESSARY MATERIAL FROM THE CHARTER.

THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE REJECTED THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

4.10(3): Prohibiting election of commissioner to more than two consecutive four-year terms. (MEASURE 2)

4.30: Limiting compensation of county officers, specifying the commissioners may ~~fix~~-salaries not to exceed two-thirds of the county executive's salary. (MEASURE 3)

8.10: Expanding functions of the county auditor's office and establishing an audit committee composed of three members of the board of county commissioners. (MEASURE 12)

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MAY, 1966: The Home Rule Charter (provisions currently in effect) was passed by voters. This action:

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*late July /
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Establishes five commission positions, two ~~(Positions 2 and 4)~~ elected at large; ~~Position 1 from West District; Position 3 from Central District and Position 5 from East District.~~ *Three elected from districts.*

Sets up ~~district apportionment~~ procedures through county auditor's office and by ~~passage of ordinances through the board of commissioners.~~

Establishes staggered terms of office for commission posts.

Chairperson and Vice-chairperson selected by board of commissioners. *Annually*

~~Provides that advisory boards and commissions may be created with members appointed by the county executive with approval of the board.~~

~~Establishes that no board member but the chairperson may give orders to an administrative officer or employee of the county.~~

~~Sets up residency requirements for commissioners.~~

~~Defines what constitutes a vacancy on the board.~~

Establishes procedures and effective dates for passage of ordinances.

~~Defines duties and authority of the Chief County Executive.~~

for re-districting after 1990 census

OK MEASURE 4: ~~REQUIRES CONTINUED RESIDENCE OF COMMISSIONERS (This measure is contingent on the passage of Measure 1).~~

Provides that any county elective office
MEASURE 5: ~~Defines circumstances and causes under which a commission position shall become vacant.~~ *on long-term disability of the officer.*

MEASURE 6: REQUIRES ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES.

~~Authorizes Board to fill by appointment any vacancy occurring LESS than 15 months before the end of the elected term. Elections will be held within 60 days to fill vacancies occurring 15 months or MORE before the end of elected term.~~

Sunken order

MEASURE 7: Prohibits person appointed to fill commission vacancy ~~to be~~ *from being* candidate for that position in the next election.

MEASURE 8: Establishes that no employee shall be refused employment or be discriminated against in any manner *contrary to state law.*

MEASURE 9: ~~REVISES REVENUE BOND AUTHORITY~~ *Grants Revenue Bonding Authority to Board of Commissioners.*
MEASURE 10: Specifies that all elective county offices shall be nonpartisan. *Prohibit repayment from taxes.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT SUMMARY-2-

MEASURE 11: ^{Eliminates} ~~Revises~~ gender references ^{in charter} and permits the board to delete obsolete and unnecessary material from the charter.

THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE REJECTED THE
FOLLOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

4.10(3): Prohibiting election of commissioner to more than two consecutive four-year terms. (MEASURE 2)

4.30: ^{Limiting} ~~Revising the basis of~~ compensation of county officers, specifying the commissioners may fix salaries not to exceed two-thirds of the county executive's salary. (MEASURE 3)

8:10: Expanding functions of the county auditor's office and establishing an audit committee composed of three members of the board of county commissioners. (MEASURE 12)