

BEND2030
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CHARTER REVIEW COMMUNITY OPINIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Presented by:

Brent Landels

Kathleen Meehan Coop

Bill Galaway

Richard Ross

Don Leonard



OUR GOALS TODAY



- Provide an overview of the issues involved in charter review
- Share data from other Oregon cities
- Share public input collected at two forums
- Encourage you to select charter review as a Council Goal
- Encourage you to create a Charter Review Committee

CHARTER REVIEW COMMUNITY FORUMS



■ FORUM GOALS

- Educate residents on the Charter
- Collect public opinion & spur dialogue

■ SEPT. 20, 2016—75 attendees

- Education focused
- League of Oregon Cities presentation by Sean O'Day
- Panel: Jim Clinton, Victor Chudowsky and Oran Teater

■ Nov. 1, 2016—100 attendees

- Public input collected
- Focuses on elected mayor, wards and councilor pay

BEND'S CHARTER

A BRIEF HISTORY



- Established in 1929
- City Council form adopted in 1995
 - Councilors elected by public
 - Council appoints mayor from its ranks
 - Council hires city manager
- Charter has not been updated since 2004, when all council positions became elected at-large seats

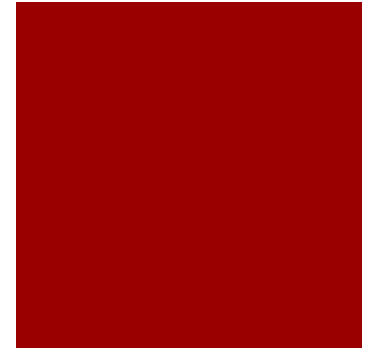
CHARTER REVIEW

WHY NOW?

- Strong community interest in conjunction with the Bend Livability Conference
- City population has grown dramatically since last full review in 1995 from 30,300 to 87,000 people
- Residents are concerned about fair representation from all geographic areas of Bend on Council and City committees
- The complex issues facing our City require the best leadership possible



TODAY'S AGENDA



- Brent Landels- **Introduction**
- Kathleen Meehan Coop- **Elected Mayor**
- Bill Galaway- **Ward Systems**
- Richard Ross- **Council Pay**
- Don Leonard- **Recommendations**



ELECTED MAYOR

Kathleen Meehan Coop

ELECTED MAYOR EXISTING CONCERNS



- Participants said:
 - Lack of clear visionary leadership
 - Bend not strongly represented at local, state and federal level
 - Councilor-appointed mayor system creates friction on Council and lack of clear leadership
 - Mayors may not adequately represent community-wide interests

OREGON CITIES	POPULATION	MAYOR	TERM LENGTH (YEARS)
Portland	632,000	Elected	4
Salem	165,000	Elected	4
Eugene	163,500	Elected	4
Gresham	110,500	Elected	4
Hillsboro	102,000	Elected	4
Beaverton	97,000	Elected	4
BEND	87,000	APPOINTED	2
Medford	75,000	Elected	4
Springfield	61,000	Elected	4
Corvallis	56,000	Elected	4
Grants Pass	35,000	Elected	4
Redmond	26,000	Elected	2
Forest Grove	21,000	Elected	4
Baker City	10,000	Appointed	2

ELECTED MAYOR

EVALUATING SOLUTIONS

PROS

- Better leadership and accountability
- Represents entire city
- Provides a “face” for Bend
- Improved representation at the state & county level
- Increased engagement by city residents
- Community members determine who is best
- Seen as a real “job” rather than a volunteer opportunity
- More qualified individuals may run for the position

CONS

- Creates an environment where special interests may want to become more involved in the mayoral election
- Harder to remove a poor performing elected mayor
- Community members that aren’t engaged in/informed on city issues may not elect the best person for the position



WARD SYSTEM

BILL GALAWAY

WARD SYSTEM EXISTING CONCERNS



- Participants said:
 - Lack of equitable representation across City
 - Council and City committee positions predominantly filled by Westside residents
 - No direct responsibility and accountability for addressing neighborhood issues

WARD SYSTEM

FAIR REPRESENTATION IS AN ISSUE

Committee	West Side	East Side
Registered Voters	22,035	27,594
City Councilors	6	1
Planning Commission	5	2
Budget Committee	8	0
Sewer Infrastructure Advisory Group	15	2
UGB Technical Advisors	41	4

East/West boundary is the Parkway

Source: Bend Bulletin, 2015

OREGON CITIES	POPULATION	ELECTED MAYOR	WARDS	AT-LARGE
Portland	632,000	1	0	4
Salem	165,000	1	8	0
Eugene	163,500	1	8	0
Gresham	110,500	1	0	6
Hillsboro	102,000	1	3	3
Beaverton	97,000	1	0	6
BEND	87,000	0	0	7
Medford	75,000	1	4 (2 each)	0
Springfield	61,000	1	6	0
Corvallis	56,000	1	9	0

WARD SYSTEM

EVALUATING SOLUTIONS

PROS

- Wards would elect their own council member, ensuring representation and accountability
- With NA's aligned to the ward, it strengthens the partnership between the NA's and the city.
 - Makes the NA's much more relevant
- The cost of running for office is significantly reduced (only advertising to the ward).
- Council members would look for residents within their ward to participate in various committees/assignments.

CONS

- Every ward may not have strong, viable candidates for city council and committee membership
 - In a 6 ward system, there would be ~8,000 voters per ward
- Would a ward system lead to individual city council members only focusing on issues that impact their ward



COUNCIL PAY AND
STAFF SUPPORT
RICHARD ROSS

OREGON CITIES	POPULATION	MAYOR PAID	COUNCIL PAID
Portland	632,000	FULL TIME	FULL TIME
Salem	165,000	NO	NO
Eugene	163,500	YES	YES
Gresham	110,500	FULL TIME	YES
Hillsboro	102,000	YES	YES
Beaverton	97,000	FULL TIME	YES
BEND	87,000	\$200/MO	\$200/MO
Medford	75,000	NO	NO
Springfield	61,000	NO	NO
Corvallis	56,000	YES	NO

COUNCIL PAY AND STAFF SUPPORT EXISTING CONCERNS



- Participants said:
 - Councilors may be limited in time devoted to studying issues as they juggle other paid work
 - Candidates of all backgrounds and income levels are discouraged from running for office and only people in positions of economic privilege can participate
 - Councilors may be unwilling to serve multiple terms and the public may be losing out on the benefit of their experience
 - Longterm issues and complicated problems are difficult to solve without staffing

COUNCIL PAY AND SUPPORT STAFF EVALUATING SOLUTIONS



PROS

- Would remove barriers for service for some people
- Higher pay is more representative of the value of Councilors to our community
- Greater commitment could be expected
- Better research and connection to constituents may occur with staff support leading to more informed, inclusive policy

CONS

- Higher pay may draw professional politicians not community reps
- Motivation may be money instead of service
- Councilors may feel emboldened to impinge on City staff roles
- It's council's job to set policy, they do not need staff
- Having a staff might lead to work creation just to keep staff employed
- Council staff will add another layer of politics



RECOMMENDATIONS
AND NEXT STEPS
DON LEONARD

CHARTER REVIEW

IT'S TIME



- Since the last full review in 1995, Bend has grown from a small city of 30,000 to a mid-sized city of 87,000
- We are poised to grow by 40 percent more people by 2028
- Because of the growth in population and complexity of City issues it is time to again review the charter and consider revising it to allow for:
 - Elected mayor
 - Wards

CHARTER REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS



- Form a Charter Review Committee made up of Councilors, equal geographic representation from across Bend, and citizens at-large from diverse populations to review:
 - Elected mayor
 - Wards
- Council pay should be removed from the charter and should not be considered as an element of this charter review
- A strong priority should be placed on involving the public through surveys, forums and other methods

CHARTER REVIEW RECOMMENDED TIMELINE



- **IMMEDIATELY:** Form a Charter Review Committee
- **MARCH-JUNE 2017:** Committee review creates initial recommendations
- **SUMMER 2017:** Public input on recommendations
- **FALL 2017:** Finalize recommendations to Council with amendments based on public input
- **FALL 2017:** Council and staff prep referendum for ballot
- **NOVEMBER 2017:** Charter Referendum Vote
- **NOVEMBER 2018:** Mayor and Council elections under new charter

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**BEND Chamber**

**CITY CLUB**
OF CENTRAL OREGON

CHARTER REVIEW COMMUNITY OPINIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

**We are sincerely grateful for your service.
Thank you for your time!**