



CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 6, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Community Members

Brent Landels (co-chair)*
Don Leonard*
Katy Brooks
Stephanie Senner
Richard Ross*
Kathleen Meehan Coop*
Chad Sage
Dan Fishkin
Anne George
Bill Galaway (co-chair)*
Angela Chisum

Staff

Eric King, City Manager
Mary Winters, City Attorney
Robyn Christie, City Recorder

Council Liaison

Bruce Abernethy

* Denotes original committee members



The Committee was established to complete the following:

- Recommend charter language changes for a ballot measure regarding a directly elected mayor.
- Provide a recommendation as to whether a ward system measure should be a ballot measure, including:
 - type of ward system
 - number of wards and councilors per ward
- Provide a recommendation on removing all Council and/or Mayor pay from the charter to be set by Council ordinance.
- Consider recommending additional measures be placed on the ballot related to the 2015 Model Charter.



Committee research included:

- Data from National League of Cities
- Interviews of staff and elected officials from six other Oregon cities
- Current research studies and relevant articles
- Meetings with Bend City Council members
- Informal discussions with other Bend residents, neighbors and community members



The Committee unanimously recommends the following proposed charter changes to be placed on the May 2018 ballot:

- A Directly Elected Mayor
- Adoption of a Ward System
- Removing Mayor and Council pay language from the charter, so that pay may be adopted by city ordinance with a recommendation to be set by an independent advisory committee



The committee discussed and reviewed the following issues and topics related to changing our current mayoral system:

- Elect or Appoint Mayor
- 2 or 4 year term
- Voting on Council issues and topics
- Responsibilities
- Compensation
- Roll-out/timing of moving to a directly elected mayor

MAYOR RECOMMENDATION



The committee recommends that Bend residents should be provided the opportunity to vote on a directly elected Mayor.

Scope/Role of Elected Mayor

- 4 year term
- No change to current Mayoral responsibilities; reaffirmed no veto power
- No change to Bend's form of government
- Mayor serves as the political head for the city of Bend as described in the LOC Model Charter
- If the measure is approved, put the first directly elected mayor on the November 2018 ballot



The committee discussed and reviewed the following issues and topics related to moving to a ward system:

- Primary reason for a ward system – geographic diversity on Council
- Ward systems considered: No wards (current system), 3, 4 or 6 wards and mixed systems (at-large/super wards)
- Number of Councilors per ward and/or at-large Councilors
- Voting for ward Councilors by ward or at-large
- Ward mapping possibilities
- Roll-out and timing of implementing a ward system



The committee recommends that Bend residents be provided the opportunity to vote on moving to a ward system that entails:

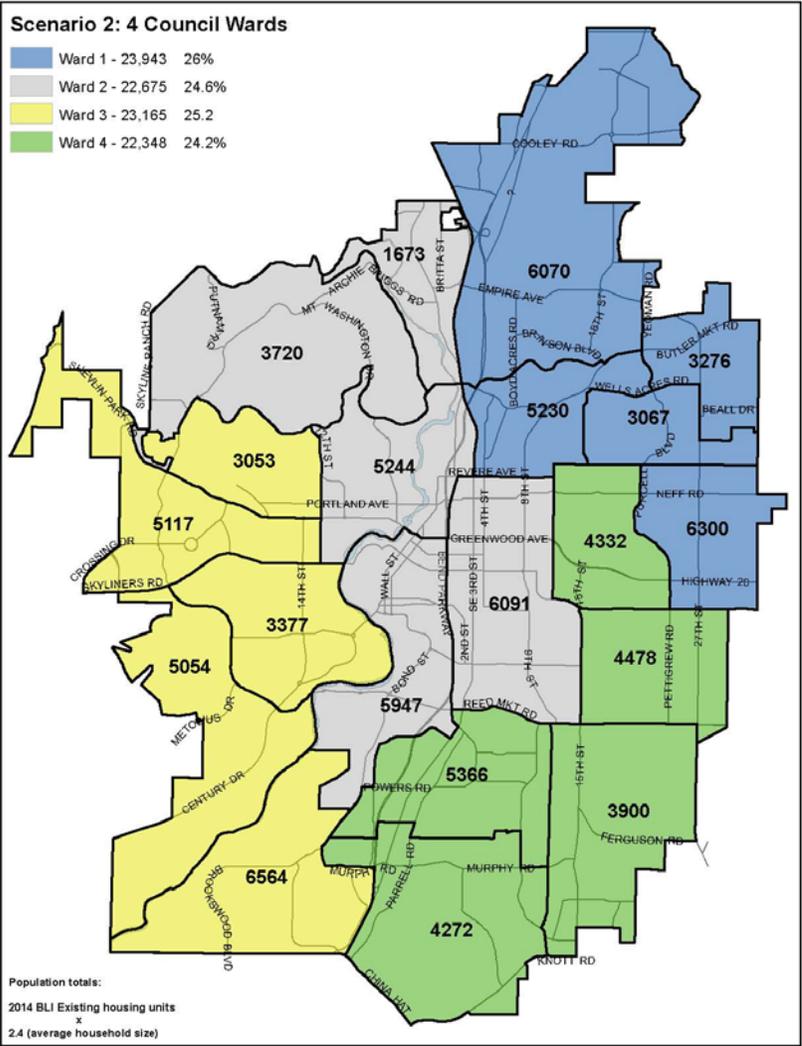
- A mixed system comprised of 4 Wards and two councilors elected at-large (*3 if elected Mayor does not pass*)
- Voting for ward candidates by voters from within the ward
- Scenario 2 Map
- If the measure is approved, change the:
 - Upcoming open councilor positions to the two new at-large positions for the November 2018 ballot
 - Other four council positions to the specific ward positions for the November 2020 ballot

WARD MAP DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- Ward maps were drawn using the following Oregon Secretary of State Guidelines:
 - Be contiguous
 - Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries
 - Not divide communities of common interest
 - Be connected by transportation links
 - Be of ~equal population (+/- 5%)
 - Shall not be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group
 - Shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent elected official or other person
- Maps will be redrawn after the 2020 census results and after each future census

COMMITTEE'S PREFERRED SCENARIO



In 2018:

- 2 Councilors elected at-large;
- Mayor elected at-large, 4 year term

In 2020:

- One Councilor elected from each ward by voters in the ward

CHARTER LANGUAGE CHANGES



- Remove Mayor and Council pay language from the Charter
- Create an independent Compensation Committee to develop proposals for Mayoral and Council compensation
- Include a statement that “the Mayor serves as the political head of the city government”*

**based on LOC Model Charter*

NEXT STEPS FOR THE CHARTER COMMITTEE



- Transition specific questions
- Multiple ballot titles
- Any other issues Council identifies

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS



- Regular comprehensive charter review process
- Appoint a committee to review maps after each census and determine if they need to be redrawn
- Continued promotion of diversity in all committee selections
- Encourage efforts that facilitates a greater pool of potential candidates



Questions?