

BEND2030
vision builds



CHARTER REVIEW

COMMUNITY OPINIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

COLLECTIVE
Central Oregon
WHERE PURPOSE AND MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS THRIVE

WORTHY BREWING

WEBFOOT PAINTING
Seriously Great Painters



Bleu Brie CATERING

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



CHARTER REVIEW

COMMUNITY OPINIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

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