



City of Portland Charter Commission Agenda

Charter Commission Elections Committee
February 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

- a. Due to the existence of an "emergency or urgent issue", the Charter Commission Committees will conduct this meeting by remote methods/technology at the Zoom link provided below, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S. section 403 -B and the Charter Commission Remote Participation Policy.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Feb 15, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Charter Commission Elections Committee

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89207052337?pwd=YWwwNlVUbXBXZERrT2g2UmtOQVllZz09>

Passcode: 479084

Or One tap mobile :

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+13017158592,,89207052337#,,, *479084#

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2. Review and Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of the draft February 1, 2022 meeting minutes.

3. Workshop

- a.
- Council Districts Proposal sponsored by Commissioner Chann
 - Public Comment Period on Council Districts

4. Public Hearing
 - a.
 - Universal Resident Voting- Commissioner Washburn
5. New Business
6. Adjourn

Meeting called to order 6:06 p.m.

Present: Committee Chair Marpheen Chann, Commissioner Catherine Buxton, Commissioner Patricia Washburn

Also present: Commissioner Robert O'Brien, Commissioner Nasreen Sheikh-Yousef, Attorney James Katsiaficas, Acting City Attorney Jen Thompson

Washburn moved, Buxton seconded approving minutes of 1/18 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Chann presented election district proposal with 9 City Council districts and three at-large seats.

Thompson spoke on the legal requirements that council districts be of roughly equal size. Mayor Snyder to speak at Feb. 7 council meeting to name a working group to propose a plan for redistricting the city based on 2020 census data. (If the council fails to take action by Aug. 22, all seats become at-large.)

Does our redistricting proposal also apply to the School Committee? Probably not.

Do we need to wait till after a census year to implement new districts? No.

Attorney Katsiaficas gave an overview of relevant state statutes.

Commissioner Chann discussed other considerations including staggering election years and the need to provide comprehensible guidance to Mr. Katsiaficas in drafting usable legislation.

Commissioner O'Brien raised the issue of representation for islands specifically, and Attorney Katsiaficas agreed that it would be illegal to do this while meeting the state standard that districts must be of roughly equal size.

Discussion of polling places and how to elevate neighborhood voices.

Discussion of Burlington experience.

A period of public comment followed.

Commissioners then discussed the proposal in more detail, including the pros and cons of small neighborhood representation.

Washburn moved to adjourn, Buxton seconded, passed unanimously.