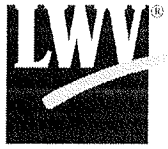


REFER AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER TO ADOPT A MAYOR-COUNCIL W/CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email (optional)
/ Lili Mandel	1511 SW Park Ave. Portland 97201	
/ Marvin Mandel	DH+O	
/ Ed Hall	61530 SE. 67th	
/ Carol Cushman	4207 N Colonial - 97217	
X PAUL MEYER	1325 SW MYRTLE DRIVE	
/ DAVID MARTINEZ	8434 N. Bayard 97217	
/ Joe Hertzberg	3115 NW Thurman 97210	
/ Amanda Fritz	4106 SW Vaccine 97219	
/ Chris Smith	2343 NW Polk, 3rd	
/ James Lee	6016 SE MITCHELL 97206	



The League of Women Voters of Portland

310 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 520
Portland, OR 97204

36479

(503) 228-1675
lwvpdx@aracnet.com

Refer Amendments to City of Portland Charter City Council Testimony February 7, 2007

My name is Carol Cushman, president of the League of Women Voters of Portland. We ask you once again to give the voters of Portland sufficient time to learn about the charter recommendations, offer suggestions for improvement or alternate proposals, and vote on them in an election in which we can expect a high rate of participation. This is not possible if you choose to schedule a vote in just over 100 days on an election day that two years ago saw a turnout of only 16.9 percent. Portlanders care about their city, relish opportunities for citizen involvement, and deserve better than this.

Should you decide to send the recommendations to the ballot in May, we urge you to ensure that the ballot title language is crystal clear in its description of the changes to our form of government and the other measures. This is especially important in an off-year election since many voters will not realize there is an election until their ballots arrive in the mail. For a good number of those, the information on the ballot may be all they will have to consider when casting their vote.

The League is a long time supporter of the commission form of government and will be opposing the form of government proposal. We base our advocacy on all issues on positions reached through study and member agreement and reaffirm them on an annual basis. We appreciate the work of the citizen commission, but think more attention should have been given to ways of improving our current system and of engaging the public in the decision making process.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our opinions.

FYI
1/30/07
pu**Don't Change Portland's Form of Government**

1/19/07

Mayor Tom Potter is backing a proposal to change the City of Portland's form of government. KINK considers a solution in search of a problem.

It was one of former Mayor Vera Katz's worst and most unpopular decisions. To save money, she closed all but one of Portland's police precincts to the public at night. The striking thing is that three of five city council members said--at least off the record--that it was a bad decision. But they wouldn't challenge Katz. That's because under Portland's unique form of government, each member of City Council--including the Mayor--is directly responsible for a portfolio of city departments. Katz had police. Other council members thought if they messed with one of Katz's bureaus, she'd go after one of theirs. So they kept silent, on the record at least.

A city commission, with the backing of Mayor Tom Potter, is proposing a major change in our form of city government. The Mayor would control all city departments and appoint a city manager to manage them. Supporters believe city council members other than the Mayor would then be free to deal with city policies without worrying about protecting individual bureaus. A few years ago, we might have agreed. But these days City Council members feel free to challenge bureaus led by their colleagues. Just look at Randy Leonard and his strong and effective criticism of the Portland Development Commission, one of Potter's bureaus. The current form of government also lends itself to excellent constituent service--if you have a pothole that's not getting filled, best to talk to the politician in charge of potholes.

In our opinion, right now we probably have the smartest, highest caliber City Council that Portland has ever seen. There are a variety of reasons why people run for public office, but a central one is that they want to make a difference. The current system allows just that and we think it's one reason that we've had such good candidates. Responsibility is a good thing. We don't need to change the system.

cc: Portland Mayor and members of City Council

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GARY BLACKMER, AUDITOR
CITY OF PORTLAND, OR

BY _____

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