

Kansas City Charter Review Commission
Public Listening Session Meeting Minutes

5.8.2023

All Commissioners present at Southeast Community Center (4201 E 63rd St., Kansas City, MO 64130) for public listening session. Co-Chair Jack Steadman provided an introduction and overview of the Commission and members. Commissioner Linda Brown provided an overview of the Charter, explained the Commission's guiding principles, and provided a general overview of the Commission's meetings to date. Commissioner Steadman explained that the Commission would discuss proposed revisions and then take comment on each proposal as it was summarized for the public.

Commissioner Margaret Jones started by providing an overview of the centralized filing system and random ballot order proposal. No member of the public desired to provide comment on this proposal.

Commissioner Adam Miller then described proposed changes to petition thresholds. One public comment was provided that stated concern about making it too difficult to meet thresholds for initiative petitions. Commissioner Steadman followed up with an explanation of the floors and "Columbia model" that the Commission was exploring.

Commissioner Michael McGee provided an explanation of the 50+1 proposal that allows a candidate to win their election without going to the general election. Several members of the public spoke in favor ranked choice voting during public comment on this proposal.

Commission Vance then provided a summary of the proposal to move the City's municipal election cycle to August and November in odd years. A few public comments were provided in response to this proposal that expressed desire to either study proposal further or not to move election dates at all.

The Commission then opened the session to general public comment. Approximately ten additional members of the public spoke to various aspects of the Charter Review Commission and timeline to conduct its business. After hearing from all members of the public in attendance, the City Clerk confirmed no members of the public participating via Zoom had raised hands or otherwise wished to provide comment virtually.

The Commission closed the meeting with final comments and thoughts from individual Commissioners.