



## City of Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission

### **Questions for Members of Council, City Manager, Department Directors and Chairs of Boards and Commissions**

The Commission has been specifically directed by City Council to look at some critical parts of the City Charter, such as the form of government. However, as part of that effort, the Commission wants to be sure to deal with any provision that needs attention. To help ascertain views of the form of government as well as what provisions need attention, the Commission is sending out this brief survey. The questions are open ended, so you can fully express your views. You may also suggest specific changes to any provision.

In addition, the Commission may invite some respondents to attend a meeting of the Commission to further explain their views.

If you have any questions on the survey, you can contact Dr. Larry Keller, Commission Facilitator, at 216-496-4184. Please return completed surveys either by E-Mail to Dr. Larry Keller at [lkeller@clvhts.com](mailto:lkeller@clvhts.com), or by envelope to Susanna O'Neil, Assistant City Manager, [snoneil@clvhts.com](mailto:snoneil@clvhts.com). If desired, department heads and chairs of boards and commissions can return surveys without any identity.

**Please return completed surveys by Monday, 15 January.**

1. What parts of the Charter should be considered by the Commission, without necessarily implying that you believe a change should or should not be made.

The three (3) most important elements for consideration, not necessarily in order of importance to you.

- 1. SECTION III-1. POWERS, NUMBER AND TERM.**
- 2. FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

Any remaining elements, preferably in order of importance to you.

2. For each part identified in Question 1, explain briefly,

(a) why the item should be considered and if you think a change may be warranted, then

(b) what the change should be and why.

1. I believe that council members should be defined by ward/neighborhood as opposed to at large. This would help to eliminate the perceived bias by some residents.
2. The form of government should remain as currently defined. I have experienced both the Mayor/Council and City Manager/Council form of government as a member of numerous different committees. I have observed a strong contrast between the two forms. It is my opinion that the City Manager form provides a better base for both employees and residents. An appointed City Manager has made a commitment to seek training and education relevant to the position. In contrast, an elected Mayor could have little or no experience in the skills/abilities required to lead a city. While both forms of government will require an adjustment period for a new leader, this tends to occur much more rapidly with a City Manager.

3. Identify any change or changes you have observed in the facts and circumstances of the city (other than personnel changes in the City Council or City Administration) in the five (5) years since the on-cycle determination by Council in 2012 that no charter review was warranted. Note the changes that warrant this off-cycle review, and how any such changes relate to what you noted in Questions 1 and 2 above.

I haven't noted any changes relevant to my answers above.

4. What parts of the current structure of the City government are: (a) serving the City well; (b) not serving the City well?
  - a. As noted in my responses, I feel that the City Manager is doing an excellent job of stabilizing the city and making improvements. This is largely due to her experience and education as a professional in the field. I would be adverse to changing our form of government. A city of this size needs stability in leadership and this is difficult to achieve in a Mayor form of government.
  - b. While not a problem, I do feel that changing council from at large to ward representation could lead to the impression of fair representation without bias.