



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, or by envelope to Susanna O'Neil, Assistant City Manager, 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.

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

1. Should we have a mayor elected by the residents vs selected by the Council?
2. Should we have representation by Wards?
3. Could we have a Council made up of Wards with an additional 2 At-Large?
4. Can we have a government structure with elected Mayor and an appointed City Administrator (similar to Shaker Heights)?
5. Number of years Mayor should serve (4 vs 2).

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.

Should we have a mayor elected by the residents vs selected by the Council?

This is a more typical form of government and one I am more familiar with. I think residents should be able to elect their Mayor, but I believe having a strong City Manager has many benefits. An experienced City Manager has the education and experience in running a city and I believe that is very valuable.

Should we have representation by Wards?

I would like to have one individual “accountable” to my neighborhood. It would add clarity to have a single person to reach out to.

Could we have a Council made up of Wards with an additional 2 At-Large?

I do still believe that at-large representation is critical. Besides the Mayor I’d like the Council to be thinking about the city as a whole versus each member only concentrating on their Ward.

Can we have a government structure with elected Mayor and an appointed City Administrator (similar to Shaker Heights)?

I am not sure how well this works and if there would be conflict. Being a short-timer here in CH, I am very pleased with the management and sophistication of our City Manager. There are currently not too many council members that would have the necessary experience to run this city.

Number of years Mayor should serve (4 vs 2). Term limits?

With a City Manager this is probably less relevant. If consideration is given to moving to a strong mayor I believe the term should be four years and that there should be a term limit of two or three cycles.

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 am a new employee and a new resident to CH so I am unable to answer this question.

4. What parts of the current structure of the City government are: (a) serving the City well; (b) not serving the City well?

I think we have an excellent City Manager who is knowledgeable and responsive to our citizens. This has been the form of government for CH and I am not sure it needs to change. Decisions are made for the betterment of the residents and not for political reasons. It seems in this day and age that we are always in election mode, even after one election is completed. I think this muddies the water and may not be the best way to service our customers.