

Time for voters to control shots

This region's residents should look warily at the new Regional Governance Committee, a group of elected officials from metropolitan cities, counties and service districts.

The committee was formed ostensibly to provide information and advice to the Metro Charter Committee, which is drafting a blueprint for the regional government's future.

But make no mistake. This is a guerrilla action by politicians who fear their power will be diminished if the charter makes regional government as effective as it could be.

With a \$120,000 budget — taxpayer money pledged by the various jurisdictions — this band of politicians is

likely to have a powerful voice.

Of course, elected officials should be involved. As representatives of constituencies that will be affected by regional government, they can provide important insight.

But their comments already are being sought at hearings, and these same elected officials selected some of the charter committee members to represent their views.

Voters established an elected regional government. They will decide next year whether the new Metro charter meets their needs.

Elected officials should respect that process and back off. Voters don't need them to filter the charter committee's work.

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