

METRO CHARTER COMMITTEE

**ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES
TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE**

JANUARY 10, 1992

FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND RESPONSE

The Metro Charter Committee is considering, and invites public comment on, the following (or other) alternatives to regional government structure or variations of them.

I. ALTERNATIVE ONE

(Source: Metro Charter Committee)

Executive officer, elected at large by voters of regional government, to exercise executive/administrative authority.

Sub-issues:

- Partisan or nonpartisan.
- Term limitations.
- Method of filling vacancy.

Regional governing body, elected within single-member districts, to exercise legislative authority.

Sub-issues:

- Size of regional governing body.
- Partisan or nonpartisan.
- Part-time or full-time.
- Term limitations.
- Method of filling vacancies.
- Method of selecting presiding officer, i.e., at-large election or by regional governing body.

Administrative structure of regional government is left for determination by regional governing body except to the extent the charter prescribes that structure.

Sub-issues:

- Situations, if any, in which charter should prescribe use of commissions or boards of directors.

II. ALTERNATIVE TWO

(Source: Metro Charter Committee)

Executive officer, elected at large by voters of regional government.

Sub-issues:

- Partisan or nonpartisan.
- Term limitations.

Scope of responsibilities in relation to Chief
Administrative officer.
Method of filling vacancy.

Separate and appointive Chief Administrative Officer
position specified by Charter.

Sub-issues:

Method of selection.
Scope of responsibilities in relation to Executive
Officer.

Regional governing body, elected within single-member
districts, to exercise legislative authority.

Sub-issues:

(Same as Alternative One)

Administrative structure of regional government is left
for determination of governing body except as to use of a Chief
Administrative Officer and except to the extent the charter
otherwise prescribes that structure.

Sub-issues:

Situations, if any, in which charter should
prescribe use of commissions or boards of
directors.

III. ALTERNATIVE THREE

(Source: Metro Charter Committee)

Executive Officer, elected at large by voters of
regional government, to exercise executive/administrative
authority not vested in Treasurer.

Sub-issues:

(Same as Alternative One)

Treasurer, to make continuous inspections of regional
government's financial affairs; conduct fiscal and performance
audits; prepare five-year projections of operating budget and
capital program; receive all monies due the regional government
and make all payments due; and provide for management and
investment of Metro finances, subject to approval of legislative
body.

Sub-issues:

Elected or appointed.
Partisan or nonpartisan.
Term limitation.
Separation of audit to additional position.
Method of filling vacancy.
Successor to Executive Officer position if vacancy occurs.

IV. ALTERNATIVE FOUR

(Source: Metro Charter Committee)

Regional governing body elected from single-member districts.

Sub-issues:

(Same as Alternative One)

Regional Government Manager selected by the regional governing body.

Sub-issues:

Nature of relationship and responsibilities between regional governing body and Regional Government Manager.

V. ALTERNATIVE FIVE

(Source: Metro Charter Committee)

Regional governing body with members elected from single-member districts. Regional governing body exercises the regional government's planning responsibilities and ultimate budget and policy-making responsibilities for all the regional government functions.

Sub-issues:

(Same as Alternative One)

Administration of all initial regional government functions other than planning is placed by the charter under commissions selected by the regional governing body. Manner of administration of any function later acquired by charter process will be determined in that process.

Sub-issues:

Periodic charter sunset of each commission.
Authority of regional governing body otherwise to terminate commissions.

VI. ALTERNATIVE SIX

(Source: Portland Metropolitan Chamber
of Commerce Metro Charter Review Task Force)

Regional governing body with authority to establish regional policy, set regional standards, maintain information and databases of the region, ensure compliance with regional policies and be accountable to regional electorate regarding regional issues.

Sub-issues:

(Same as Alternative One)

Regional governing body would be empowered to establish independent regional authorities or affect other arrangements in order to deliver specific regional services as necessary and appropriate, but could not itself tax directly for regional service provision or provide regional services delivery directly.

Legislative body would act as appeal body to resolve problems between local governments on regional basis, and would be required to provide for regular input from and communication with local governments either structurally or by other stated means.