

**INFORMATION FROM REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
TO CHARTER COMMITTEE  
REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**

**January 16, 1992**

**GENERAL ISSUES AND PRINCIPLES**

- The METRO Council needs to be an effective policy making body. It needs the time to become knowledgeable on important policy issues, the authority to make decisions, and the proper size to be a good decision-making body.
- The regional government should operate efficiently. The costs of operating the government should be minimized. This means that:
  - Staff functions within the government should not overlap.
  - There should not be confusion between legislative and executive department authorities.
  - Governmental structures between the two critical partners, METRO and local governments, should be compatible.
- The regional government's Councilors should be visible and accountable to the electorate. A large Council makes it more difficult for voters to identify the regional decision-makers.
- The regional government should not add another layer of government by duplicating services provided by local governments. This makes it essential that a structural partnership between regional and local governments be required in the Charter.
- The regional government should be managed professionally. The current system with an elected Executive Officer should be changed to an appointed manager.

**RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

**A. Legislative Body (METRO Council).**

1. The following alternatives for organizing and compensating members of the legislative body are suggested for consideration at this time.
  - a. Seven full-time paid members by district, select own chair; or
  - b. Seven part-time paid members by district, select own chair; or
  - c. Six to eight volunteer members (per diem reimbursement only) by district, 1 full-time Chair elected at large; or
  - d. Seven to nine volunteer members (per diem reimbursement only) by district, select own chair

2. Non-partisan positions
3. Four-year terms (staggered)
4. Provisions for succession (filling vacancies)
5. Must be resident of the district for one year prior to election
6. Re-district every 10 years
7. Recall

**B. Staff**

1. Council shall hire a professional manager for the government and oversee their work
2. Other staff to be hired by manager as needed to perform authorized functions

**MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR SERVICE DELIVERY**

- The management structure of future service delivery areas (i.e. areas not assigned to Metro as an outright authority in the Charter) should be determined on a case-by-case basis. The appropriate management structure may vary depending on the service to be delivered. There is no benefit from prescribing that structure in the Charter. The issue of management structure must be identified prior to the vote by a revised RPAC, the Metro Council, or the electors on whether or not to engage in regional service delivery.
- For current service delivery areas that Metro is assigned by the Charter (e.g., Solid Waste, the Zoo, Regional Facilities) the management structure should be revisited within 5 years of Charter adoption.

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