

RESOLUTION No. **34980**

Advise Metro Charter Committee of City Council's views on the contents of the Metro Charter (Resolution).

WHEREAS in November, 1990 the voters of Oregon amended the State Constitution to allow for the enactment of home rule charters for metropolitan service districts; and

WHEREAS a Charter Committee has been appointed by METRO, the state legislature, and cities and counties to draft a home rule charter for a metropolitan service district in the tri-county area; and

WHEREAS the Charter Committee has stated its intention to complete the charter in spring of this year and place it on the November, 1992 ballot for consideration by the voters of this region; and

WHEREAS nearly 500,000 additional residents are expected within the Portland metropolitan area in the next twenty years, and the 24 cities, three counties and numerous special districts in this region are unable, acting separately, to successfully manage the effects of that growth, making regional government a necessity if we are to maintain our livability.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

1. The City of Portland strongly supports the present focus of the Metropolitan Service District on regional growth management, and believes that this emphasis should continue irrespective of the organizational structure or procedures ultimately recommended by the Charter Commission;
2. The City of Portland is prepared to demonstrate its commitment to the principle that regional aspects of governmental functions should be managed regionally, by working cooperatively to identify those functions now performed by the City that properly should be transferred to the regional government; and
3. The City of Portland hereby endorses the following general principles for regional governance and offers continued encouragement to the Charter Committee to include these principles in its proposed charter:
  - a. **Existing Powers:** All existing planning and service delivery functions of Metro should be maintained.
  - b. **General Authority:** In order to best serve the changing long-term needs of the region, the regional government should have a general grant of authority to address matters of metropolitan concern which may arise in the future. The charter should not attempt to list all aspects of the regional

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government's authority, but should instead specify the procedures or criteria applicable to Metro's assumptions of new powers.

c. **Planning Powers:** Metro should retain the broad powers presently conferred on it by statute to adopt policies and plans, addressing any matter of metropolitan significance, with which local government comprehensive plans must comply.

d. **Service Delivery:** Any expansion of Metro's present service delivery functions should be based on a decision-making process which includes:

- Decision criteria to determine when a matter of metropolitan concern exists, which are sufficiently precise to assure objective determinations;

- Identification of regional and local government roles, provided that Metro should retain its present authority to enter into voluntary agreements with local governments to provide local aspects of a service function;

- A strategy for financing and managing the activity; and

- A consultative process involving local governments and an effective public involvement program. The exercise of Metro's authority to undertake new functions should not be limited by requiring the consent of any specified number of local governments, or by requiring a greater-than-majority vote of Metro's legislative body in order to overcome a negative recommendation by local governments.

e. **Implementation:** Metro should consult with local governments and with the citizens of the region on an on-going basis as planning and service delivery functions are executed.

f. **Structure:** The regional government should be structured to promote accountability and efficiency. The issue of whether to elect or appoint the executive officer should be resolved in a manner that does not detract from public support of the charter as a whole: for example, by using a separate measure on the ballot.

g. **Finance:**

- Oversight mechanisms, including collaboration with local governments when appropriate, should be established for budget, taxing and rate setting decisions of the regional government to promote efficiency and accountability.

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- The charter should require Metro to obtain voter approval of broad-based general taxes such as income, sales and ad valorem property taxes.

- Metro should retain the authority presently granted it by statute to enact certain fees, charges and taxes by ordinance, including excise taxes on Metro functions, service charges, and special assessments. The charter should grant Metro the power to enact by ordinance additional taxes and charges other than the broad-based general taxes referred to above.

- If Metro proposes to raise general revenues with any type of tax commonly used by general purpose local governments in the region, Metro should either obtain the consent of those local governments, or substitute its tax for the corresponding local government taxes and provide each local government which has levied that tax at least as much revenue as it would have received from the local tax being replaced.

- The charter should assure that Metro is authorized to acquire local government properties only with the consent of the affected local government, and on terms that reflect the past investment made by its taxpayers and ratepayers.

Passed by the Council, APR 1 1992

Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury  
Robert E. Stacey, Jr., Planning Director  
March 27, 1992

BARBARA CLARK  
Auditor of the City of Portland  
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