
METROPOLITAN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

March 8, 2019

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The Metropolitan Charter Revision Commission met on March 8, 2019 in Committee Room 2, Suite 205, Metropolitan Courthouse, 1 Public Square, Nashville, Tennessee, 37201. The following members of the Commission were present throughout the course of the meeting: Dewey Branstetter, Chairman; Hal Hardin, Vice-Chairman; and Commissioners Eileen Beehan, Susan Short Jones, Lorinda McLaughlin, Jim Murphy, and David Wilson.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Upon motion by Commissioner Hardin, properly seconded by Commissioner Murphy, the minutes of the meeting on August 8, 2018 were adopted. The Secretary announced the appeal rights for parties before the Commission pursuant to Metropolitan Code of Laws § 2.68.030. The Commission then commenced consideration of Metropolitan Council Resolution No. RS2019-1617.

Councilmember Dave Rosenberg presented proposed Charter Amendments Nos. A and B. Amendment No. A would institute ranked choice voting, thereby eliminating runoff elections, for general metropolitan elections for mayor, vice mayor, councilmember-at-large, and district councilmember. Where no candidate were to receive a majority of votes, ranked choice voting procedure would automatically calculate a winner by eliminating the lowest-

scoring candidate and redistributing his or her votes based upon the voter's designated order of preference. Said procedure would continue until one candidate had received a majority of votes.

Amendment No. B would institute ranked choice voting in the more limited circumstance of special elections to fill vacancies in the office of either vice mayor or district councilmember.

After discussion by the Commission, the Chair asked for confirmation of technical capacity to conduct ranked choice voting from Davidson County Election Commission Chairman Jim DeLanis. Mr. DeLanis confirmed that new election machines are expected to be procured and instituted soon, which will provide the required functionality. Commissioner Murphy requested information or a presentation regarding past elections that utilized ranked choice voting for purposes of discussion at the public hearing.

The Commission discussed Amendment No. C sponsored by Councilmember John Cooper. Metropolitan Council Director Jameson presented the Amendment, which would modify the Charter to require the annual operating budget: i) to incorporate an express statement of total debt, calculated in both cumulative and per capita figures; ii) to provide a statement of percent increase or decrease of debt compared with the prior fiscal year; and iii) to adopt a report of the metropolitan government assessing performance and efficiency measurements of the various metropolitan departments, boards, and commissions through analysis of metrics to be developed by the Metropolitan Finance Director.

At the conclusion of discussion on these matters, upon motion properly seconded, a public hearing on the Resolution was tentatively scheduled for May 1, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business before the Commission, upon motion properly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Dewey Branstetter

C. DEWEY BRANSTETTER, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/ Elizabeth Waites

ELIZABETH WAITES, SECRETARY