

Charter for Change

Seeking a Just, Safe, Well Managed City

Who is “Charter for Change”?

- A city-wide, non-partisan, grassroots group of Minneapolis residents who seek to provide essential, fact-based information to help voters make informed decisions on amendments to the City Charter
- Our goals: to strengthen Minneapolis city governance; make our city just and safe for every person; and build widespread understanding of the impact of the 2021 Charter amendments

What is the Charter Commission proposing and why?

- A recent study of Minneapolis city government structure revealed widespread dysfunction and confusion within city government. Because of the lack of defined authority, it is difficult for department heads and city staff to know whose direction to follow. This type of government structure is inefficient and ineffective, complex and costly.
- To address these fundamental issues, the Minneapolis Charter Commission voted unanimously to propose an amendment to the city charter to clarify the roles of the Mayor as executive of city operations and the City Council as legislators who are also responsible for constituent service.
- The Mayor maintains current veto authority and nomination of department heads for Council approval. The amendment clarifies the Mayor as the City’s chief executive officer, in whom the general executive and administrative authority resides.
- The Council maintains its current substantial responsibilities: to set city policy and ordinance; approve budget and labor contracts and charter department head appointments; and appoint more than 700 people to 57 boards and commissions. In addition, the amendment enhances the Council’s financial and performance oversight with a newly created office of City Auditor.
- **Charter for Change believes this amendment would make our City government more accountable, effective, and responsible because it defines the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and City Council.** The City would also be much more likely to attract and retain highly qualified department heads and staff.

What are the other possible charter amendments in November 2021?

Rent Stabilization by the City Council

- Proposes to authorize rent control in the city by explicitly authorizing the City to exercise that power per MN Stat. 471.9996, and by allowing limited initiative by citizens’ petition.

Rent Stabilization (limited initiative)

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Public Safety Department by Citizen Petition (Yes4Mpls)

- Proposes to create a new Public Safety Department that may include a law enforcement division, under a Commissioner of Public Safety to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, and eliminating the Police Department as a standalone department in the City.