

NAME:



DINNER & DIALOGUE

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION CANDIDATE FORUM

In Partnership With:



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF DETROIT



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AGENDA

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2018

- Welcome
- Sizing up Candidate Speech
- Determine Table Questions
- 1 minute Candidate Introductions
- Speed Dating with Candidates, Table Activities

2018 ELECTIONS

COLOR GUIDE

- **Legislative**
Makes & changes laws
- **Executive**
Puts laws into action
- **Judicial**
Interprets the law
- **Other**

DPSCD School Board
(7 total; 2 seats up for election)
Hires the Superintendent, establishes policies for the district, approves the budget, and determines facility needs

Detroit City Charter Revision Commission
(9 seats up for election)
The Detroit City Charter is Detroit's constitution and governing document for how the City's government is structured and operates. The Commission will review and may revise as determined.

DETROIT

US Senate
(100 national total; 33 nationally up for election; 2 MI total; 1 seat up for election in MI)
2 Senators from each of the 50 states are elected to pass laws and adopt the budget for the whole country.

36th District Court
(31 total; 11 seats up for election)
District court judges deal with traffic violations, landlord/tenant issues, lawsuits up to \$25,000 and money disputes up to \$6,000.

Wayne County Comm. College Board of Trustees
(9 total; 5 Detroit; 3 seats up for election)

3rd Circuit Court
(58 total; 19 seats up for election)
Circuit Court judges deal with larger civil cases, criminal cases (eg. drugs, violence), and family cases (eg. child custody, domestic violence, divorce).

UNITED STATES

US House of Reps.
(435 national total; 14 MI total; 2 Detroit)
Lawmakers who are elected from all 50 states who come together to make laws and pass the budget for the whole country.

County Commissioners
(16 total; 7 Detroit)
Legislators for Wayne County: adopts the budget and enacts ordinances.

WAYNE COUNTY

County Executive
Top executive for Wayne County. Responsible for delivering county services, implementing county laws.

Probate Court
(8 total; 3 seats up for election)
Probate judges deal with wills and estates - such as what happens when a homeowner dies without a will and there is a question about who now owns the house.

Wayne County Comm. College Millage
This proposal will allow Wayne County Community College District to levy 2.25 mills for operating purposes, permanently replacing and combining two separate existing authorizations which would otherwise expire in 2020 and 2022.

MICHIGAN

Secretary of State
Chief election officer. Oversees vehicle registration and licensing of drivers.

MI House of Reps
(110 state total; 10 Detroit)
Lawmakers who are elected from all over Michigan to make laws and pass the budget for the whole state.

MI First District Court of Appeals
(6 total; 2 seats up for election)

Attorney General
Chief law enforcement officer. Legal advisor to state gov.

Governor/Lt. Governor
Top executive for the State of Michigan. Signs off on laws passed by the State legislature and implements those laws.

UMich Board of Regents
(8 total; 2 seats up for election)

MI Senate
(38 state total)
Lawmakers who are elected from all over Michigan to make laws and pass the budget for the whole state.

Proposal 18-1
A proposed initiated law to authorize and legalize possession, use and cultivation of marijuana products by individuals who are at least 21 years of age and older, and commercial sales of marijuana through state-licensed retailers.

State Board of Education (8 seats total, 2 seats up for election)
Leadership and general supervision over all public education, adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except institutions granting bachelor degrees.

MSU Board of Trustees
(8 total; 2 seats up for election)

Wayne State Board of Governors
(8 total; 2 seats up for election)

Proposal 18-2
A proposed constitutional amendment to establish a commission of citizens with exclusive authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Congress, every 10 years.

MI Supreme Court
(7 total; 2 seats up for election)

Proposal 18-3
A proposal to authorize automatic and Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight ticket voting; and add current legal requirements for military and overseas voting and postelection audits to the Michigan Constitution.

OUR PARTNERS



DELTAS

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 by 22 students at Howard University. A sisterhood of more than 250,000 predominantly Black college educated women, the sorority currently has 940 chapters around the world. The Detroit Alumnae Chapter was chartered on May 13, 1939 as Alpha Pi Sigma Chapter and was later renamed as the Detroit Alumnae Chapter in 1958. DAC is one of the largest chapters in the sorority with membership averaging over 700 members annually.

The sorority has a Five Point Programmatic Thrust that drives its programs: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

DAC has received the 2015 National Social Action Award, the 2017 Midwest Region Award for Exemplary Programming in Economic Development, and the 2015 & 2017 Midwest Region Large Alumnae Chapter of the Year Award.

detroitdeltas.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of Detroit (LWV) is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not endorse candidates or political parties. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We invite you to join us as we make democracy work in our communities. The LWV of Detroit is open to new members who share our ideals. Our League registers new voters, educates voters on upcoming elections and advocates for local issues. We work to engage Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park citizens in local governance, decision-making, and issues of interest.

lwvdetroit.org

**GO TO INFORMDETROIT.ORG SO YOU CAN
STAY INFORMED. KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES. THEN VOTE!**

CitizenDetroit has interviewed candidates running for office in 2018.

For candidate videos and questionnaires, visit InformDetroit.org

For judicial candidate evaluations, visit DetroitLawyer.org/judges/

To find your polling location and districts, visit Michigan.gov/vote



General Election is Tuesday, November 6th, 2018

SIZING UP CANDIDATE SPEECH – THE 5 P’S

1. PLATITUDES/PANDERING



General moral statements that don't say anything new.

Plays to people's existing biases.

Doesn't offer specific actions the candidate will take.

2. PANTS ON FIRE

A false claim or statement, whether intentionally so or not.

Can sound good, but requires research or follow up to verify.



3. PIVOT

Briefly responds, but shifts to a different topic.

Can be a strategy to keep the focus on the candidate's priorities...

or can be a strategy to avoid certain topics.



WHAT TO LISTEN FOR WHEN HEARING A POLITICIAN TALK

4. PERTINENT



- ✓ Directly responds to the question.
- ✓ Demonstrates understanding about the role of the office.
- ✓ Demonstrates accurate knowledge about the issue.

5. POTSHOT

An unfounded or irrelevant criticism of an opponent's character that doesn't impact job performance (like gender or religion), when the target doesn't have a chance to defend him/herself.

~~OPPORTUNISTIC~~
~~UNFOUNDED~~
~~IRRELEVANT~~



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HISTORY OF THE DETROIT CITY CHARTER

In 1802, the state legislature imposed Detroit's first charter which was revised only two times in that century - in 1815 and 1857. With demand for more local control over the operation of local governments, the people amended the Michigan Constitution in 1908 to allow for what we now call "home rule". "Home Rule" was the principle of local self governance, and the amendment to the state's constitution directed that "home rule" be implemented through legislation. The following year, The Home Rule City Act of 1909 was enacted and to this day, this state law controls the process by which local units of government engage in self-governance.



Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh
1962 - 1970

It is important to note that Michigan also abides by Dillon's Rule, in conjunction with Home Rule, to determine local government authority. Dillon's Rule is consistent with the principles of federalism. This rule states that ultimately, local governments are tenants of the state. Local governments exist to perform the tasks of the state at the local level. Local government is strictly limited to what the state delegates to it. If local government oversteps the authority it is given by the state, the state has the power to modify or revoke its powers.

Citizens of Detroit voted on their first home rule charter in 1911; however, it was defeated. Finally, in 1918 Detroiters adopted their first home rule Charter, which guided the city through half a century of history and expansion. *In 1969, Mayor Jerome Cavanagh commissioned the Charter Study Commission to study and recommend whether a comprehensive revision to the 1918 charter was necessary. This led to the 1970-1973 Charter Revision Commission members of which subsequently were elected by Detroiters, which produced a Charter that was put into effect July 1, 1974.*

The 1974 Charter required that voters be asked in 1993 and every sixteen years thereafter, whether there should be additional charter revisions. As a result, the 1993 municipal general election produced the second Charter Revision Commission, which was in effect from 1993-1996. With the next proposal for a revision not scheduled until the 2018 election cycle, the City Council of Detroit availed itself of its legal right under the 1997 Charter and Home Rule City Act to call for a Charter Revision in 2009. In November of 2009, the Detroit's third Charter Revision Commission was elected to make revisions to the 1997 Charter.

2018 will be the fourth time in Detroit's history that citizens will elect a Commission composed of nine of their fellow citizens to propose revisions to the Charter of the City of Detroit.

Elements of Past Charters

- 1918 Charter eliminated a 42 person, ward-based legislative body
- 1996 Charter reduced wording to 25,000 words from 145,000
- 2012 Charter added a possible 20 year ban on contractors found to have engaged in bribery or corruption
- 2012 Charter removed special elections to fill election vacancies and dictated that they coincide with general elections

DETROIT CITY CHARTER COMMISSION

WHY IS THERE A CHARTER REVISION QUESTION ON THE BALLOT, JUST SIX YEARS AFTER THE LAST REVISION?

Detroit's 1918 Home Rule Charter was revised in 1974, 1996, and most recently, in 2012. The 1974 Charter required that a charter revision question be on the ballot in 2018, and on every fourth gubernatorial primary election thereafter - or every 16 years. When the 2012 Charter was adopted, the timetable was not reset, and therefore we had another Charter revision question on the ballot just six years after the last revision. There can be large disparities between revision dates and adopted dates, so the 16 year math may seem incorrect. In any case, since the City Council did not put the question on the primary election ballot, the Election Commission did so.

Since Detroit voted to revise the Charter, a 9-member Charter Revision Commission will be elected in the fall general election, and a budget allocation must be made to fund the revision process. According to City budget documents, the last Charter Revision Commission spent \$1,105,000 from 2009 to 2012. The Commission will have three years to oversee the revision of the City Charter, and submit it to Detroit voters to adopt or reject.

WHEN TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE CHARTER

Adapted from the National Civic League's "Guide to Charter Revision"

Not every local government issue is a charter issue and may be better handled in other ways. Before voting on whether to revise the charter, consider:

- Can this problem be addressed by the passage of an ordinance or a change in policy?
- Should a solution to this problem be sought by putting new officials in office?
- Might state legislation address this problem more effectively?
- Can the change be made by a charter amendment as opposed to a charter revision?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," that issue is probably not suited for a three-year comprehensive charter revision process. Furthermore, many local government services and regulations are mandated by state or federal law and cannot be altered or eliminated by changes to the charter.

SOME MAJOR CHANGES IN THE 2012 CHARTER INCLUDE

- Changed City Council from nine at-large members to seven district-based and two at-large members
- Changed appointed Board of Police Commissioners to seven elected by district and four appointed; requires district representation from several boards
- Created a new "independent" branch of government including Corporation Counsel & the Law Department, Inspector General, Auditor General, and Ombudsperson
- Shifted the balance of power between the Executive and Legislative branches to strengthen City Council (e.g. expanding City Council approval of Mayoral appointments)

DETROIT CITY CHARTER COMMISSION

APPROACHES TO CHARTER REVISION

Maximalist View – “More Is More”

Create a detailed document including not only government structure, but also special programs and procedures. View charter as an opportunity to protect from political pressure specific departments, governmental entities or positions by their inclusion in the charter.

Minimalist View – “Less Is More”

Create a concise framework establishing the structure and authority of government. Intentionally allow for flexibility so that elected officials can reorganize departments and streamline government as needed.

WAYS TO CHANGE A CHARTER

Changes to a charter can be made by revision or amendment. Each can be proposed by City Council with a three-fifths majority vote or by initiative petition, and requires a vote of the people to pass.

Revision

Re-examining the entire document and making fundamental changes to the charter, such as changing the form of government.

Amendment

Modifications that don't change the structure of government, and keeps the general structure of the existing charter.

WHAT CHARTER CHANGE CAN AND CAN'T DO

So what can charter change do? And, perhaps more importantly, what can it not do?

Charter Change Can

- Change the form of government (city manager, strong mayor, etc.)
- Alter electoral representation (i.e. district and/or at-large representation)
- Clarify ambiguity or confusion caused by existing charter language
- Redistribute powers among elected officials, appointed officials, and governing bodies as well as between city officials and citizens

Charter Change Can't

- Automatically increase the quality of governmental products and services
- Eliminate political in-fighting
- Stop a controversial public project
- Change or eliminate state or federally-mandated activities.

According to City budget documents, the last Charter Revision Commission spent \$1,105,000 from 2009-10 to 2011-12.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

3 ESSENTIAL PURPOSES OF A CITY CHARTER



Many local charters and state constitutions begin as concise, economical documents that reflect the basics of governmental structure and authority. The charter is amended or revised over time.

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

- Assigns powers and duties to city officials and the branches of government
- Outlines the functions of city operations and the types of services to be provided
- Provides protection for basic rights
- Determines how citizens interact with their government
- Creates a way for citizens to review and revise its contents

The Detroit Charter Revision Commission is elected by citizens of Detroit to propose revisions to Detroit's most fundamental framework document - the Charter of the City of Detroit.

Using several guiding principles established by the citizenry of Detroit, the Charter Revision Commission is tasked with constructing and revising a document that not only addresses present needs and challenges, but communicates a blueprint for responsible governance, sets citizen-based governmental priorities and articulates a practical vision for a better city as proposed by its citizens.

The Charter is the city's ultimate public document and is designed to significantly impact the life of citizens. The Charter Revision Commission is responsible for inviting and accepting public participation at every phase of the revision process.

Charter revisions are informed by public input with a process that allows the public to submit proposals for charter revisions in a variety of areas.

THE 2012 REVISION PROPOSALS WERE GROUPED INTO SEVEN MAIN CATEGORIES



ISSUES ABOUT THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Detroit City Charter just went through a revision in 2012. Detroiters are just starting to get to know their charter. Many Detroiters are unsure why the city charter is back up for revision.

Has the city of Detroit implemented all of the provisions in the 2012 charter and any amendments authorized by voters since the initial appointment?

THE COMMISSION MAY REVIEW AND ASSESS

- Evaluations and revisions to the 2009-2012 revision commission changes
- The type of government - strong mayor/ city manager/ hybrid
- Size and manner of electing city council
- Relative powers of executive/ legislative branches
- Key departments within city government
- Basic city services
- Accountability to the electorate

CITY GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

A new category of departments proposed in the 2009-2012 charter establishes a new branch of government known as the “Independent Departments and Offices”. The “Independent Departments and Offices” is a non elected branch of government that can have the power to thwart the decisions of elected leaders. This new branch of government is involved in various aspects of oversight, investigation, and reporting of city government activities. However, this responsibility for oversight has been traditionally tasked to the legislative body (i.e. City Council).

This body can prove to be problematic because it creates a duplicate and possibly competing web of expensive and time consuming processes that would question and second-guess administrators in the executive branch, which could conflict with the traditional oversight role of the legislative branch.

In addition, while the Mayor is the head of the executive branch and City Council heads the legislative branch, there is no entity designated as the head of this new branch of government. This could also be problematic when all the constituent departments in the “Independent Departments and Offices” branch are engaged in oversight of other departments and delineation of precise roles and responsibilities.

DETROIT'S CITY CHARTER DEPARTMENTS

Detroit's current charter has more departments than the average Michigan city charter. As a result, it can constrain the ability of the Mayor and City Council to react to changing service and financial needs due to the mandated provisions of these departments in the charter.

DO THESE DEPARTMENTS NEED TO BE PROVIDED FOR IN THE CITY CHARTER?

Arts, Auditor General, Community and Economic Development, Council of the Arts, Courts, Elections, Health, Historical, Human Rights, Ombudsman, Public Lighting, Recreation, Transportation, Water and Sewer, and Zoological Parks.

INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES (ARTICLE 7.5)

Auditor General, Law Department, Office of Inspector General, and Ombudsperson.

NOTE *The elimination of a department from the charter does not mean that the department would cease to exist, only that its special charter protection would be removed. This creates latitude for elected officials to make changes if deemed necessary.*

CITY CHARTER COMMISSION CANDIDATES



CHASE CANTRELL

- Founder & Executive Director, Building Community Value non-profit
- Licensed Michigan transactional attorney
- Board member, New Detroit, Inc. and Citizens Research Council of Michigan



EMILY DABISH

- Director of Strategic Partnerships, Rocket Fiber
- Former, Lead Staff on Bankruptcy, Detroit City Councilwoman Saunteel Jenkins
- B.A., Political Science, University of Michigan, M.A., Public Management, Johns Hopkins University

GRAHAM DAVIS

- No Information provided

MICHAEL GRIFFIE

- Attorney at Butzel Long
- Former Member, Wayne County Ethics Board
- Former Principal, Cornerstone Health and Tech. High School



TAYLOR HARRELL

- Director of Policy & Research, CitizenDetroit
- Former Legislative Aide, State Representative Sherry Gay-Dagnogo (MIHD-8)
- Former Congressional Liaison, Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (MI-14)



KARISSA HOLMES

- In-house Attorney, Rock Ventures
- Board Member, Brush Park Community Development Corporation
- B.A., Communications, University of Michigan, J.D., Wayne State University, M.B.A, Michigan State University



LAURA A. HUGHES

- Ruth-Ellis Center
- Planned Parenthood of SE-Michigan
- B.A., Anthropology, Brown University and M.P.H., University of Michigan



QUINCY JONES

- Executive Director, Osborn Neighborhood Alliance
- M.B.A, Lawrence Technical University
- Certificate, Nonprofit Management, Lawrence Technical University



RICHARD MACK

- Attorney, Miller Cohen, P.L.C.
- Represented city workers in 2013 Bankruptcy
- Testified for the 2009-2011 Charter Commission on privatization and labor law

DENZEL A. MCCAMPBELL

- Deputy Director of Communications, Engage Michigan
- Michigan State University

BYRON OSBERN

- No Information provided

TRACY PETERS

- No Information provided

NICOLE SMALL

- No Information provided

JOANNA UNDERWOOD

- No Information provided



CAROL WEAVER

- No Information provided



BARBARA ANN WYNDER

- Administrative experienced in local, county and state government
- B.A., Political Science, Morgan State University
- J.D., University of Detroit

AMPLIFY YOUR VOTE



AMPLIFY YOUR VOTE



November 3rd, 2018

Noon - 5PM

Detroit PAL Headquarters

1680 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48216

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GROUND RULES FOR DISCUSSION

- Be respectful.
- Participate. Be open, honest, and forthcoming.
- Don't dominate the discussion. Invite other points of view.
- Listen and try to understand various perspectives.
- Stay on topic and limit side conversations.
- Turn cellphones off or to vibrate.
- Be mindful of time!

STAY INFORMED. KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES. VOTE NOVEMBER 6TH!



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For candidate videos and questionnaires, visit InformDetroit.org

For judicial candidate evaluations, visit DetroitLawyer.org/judges/

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ALERT

Straight Party Voting will not be available in this year's election on November 6th.

The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower Federal District Court decision by Judge Gershwin Drain to keep Michigan's Straight Party Voting system, despite the Michigan Legislature banning it.

CITIZENDETROIT INFORM. ENGAGE. ACT.

Envisioning Detroit as the most informed and engaged city in the nation.

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HOW TO STAY INVOLVED:

CitizenDetroit is on the move! Join us!

- ✓ Visit CitizenDetroit.org to stay up-to-date on events
- ✓ Fill out your feedback forms
- ✓ Sign up with EngageD
- ✓ Follow us on social media

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