

District representation, form of government, term limits - all would require Charter change. Form of government change rejected in 2007 by 18,880 to 60,608 votes. See <http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?a=5456&c=27132>. Change to form of government has been proposed and rejected nine times.

Change to District representation would likely require change in form of government, otherwise the Commissioner in charge of Parks would be expected to favor parks in their home district (for example).

Proposed term limits rejected in 1996 by 40,572 to 57,305 votes. See <http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=27248&a=5089>

Non-represented employees - subject to state and federal labor laws. Non-represented staff can become represented without Charter change. Representation is governed by state law and that who may be represented is not based on classifications.

Voter-owned elections - rejected by voters in 2010, as a non-Charter change, 104,408 to 106,000 votes. Can be done by Charter change or by vote of the Council or by citizen referral of a proposed ordinance.

PURB setting utility rates - would need Charter change. Appointment/selection/accountability/purview of PURB would need to be worked out before proposing change to voters.

Transparency and information sharing is already in the Charter, Section 7-101. Public access to Information could be set by ordinance or resolution. Greater transparency and Internet posting of budget information already in progress, e.g. through the Public Involvement Advisory Council and OMF budget process.

Equity/access/ADA - could be done by ordinance. It's not clear whether the City could legally do all the things suggested by this item whether by charter or ordinance. ADA is federal law - compliance subject to federal law and does not need to be in the Charter. Portland Plan not yet completed adopted so premature to assess what policies from it should be in the Charter.

Parks Board - could be done by ordinance or by direction of the Commissioner in Charge.

PDC - governed by state law and by Charter changes adopted in 2007. If the issues in this item may legally be done, PDC can do them by ordinance. In addition, PDC must follow Council policy, so Council ordinances could also direct PDC to implement policy.

Education - governed by state law. Could consider Charter changes adding more specific references to relationship between school districts and the City government, but uncertain what that might be, that would also be in compliance with state law. Even if we add language to charter re: education, likely state law would place limitations on Portland's ability to fund core education functions.

Human Rights Commission - an independent HRC subject to funding allocations from the City of Portland's elected Commissioners could be established without a Charter change, by allocating funding to a non-profit structured like the Neighborhood Association Coalitions or Regional Arts Commission. Even the Portland Development Commission is not entirely independent of the Portland City Council because the Council has to approve their budget and some of their actions. Setting up a truly independent HRC would require specifying how Human Rights Commissioners would be appointed or elected, and how they would be allocated, responsible and accountable for spending taxpayers money. Also note that the Exposition-Recreation Commission in the Charter no longer functions, so putting the Commission in the Charter doesn't necessarily ensure ongoing viability. Also, even for "independent" Commissions like RACC, Council still has some budget responsibility so they can't be completely independent.

Auditors Office - Duties and responsibilities of the Auditor were revised and adopted as Charter changes in 1994. Specifics such as hiring of independent legal council are being discussed in the Independent Police Review revisions process. Consensus has not been reached in those discussions, which are ongoing. Independent legal counsel may not require charter change, but city seal responsibility would.

Police Oversight/training - in progress. Can be done by ordinance or directive of the Commissioner in charge, does not need Charter change.

Neighborhood Associations - no discussion has been convened in the Neighborhood Involvement system to review what any Charter language should be. May be desirable, but inclusion now is premature. Much is being done by ordinance/resolution/Commissioner-in-charge action in collaboration with the Public Involvement Advisory Committee. Also under discussion in the Portland Plan. Could be in the Charter but not required.