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May 23, 2024

Via Email to Commissioners at lbcccom@lanecountyor.gov and via First Class Mail

Via Email to County Counsel at erin.pettigrew@lanecountyor.gov and via First Class Mail

Ryan Ceniga
Commissioner - District 1 West Lane
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Pat Farr
Commissioner - District 4 North Eugene
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

David Loveall
Commissioner - District 2 Springfield
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Laurie Trieger
Commissioner - District 3 South Eugene
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Heather Buch
Commissioner - District 5 East
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Erin Pettigrew
Lane County Counsel
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: Proposed Lane County Charter Amendment: Citizen's Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners and County Counsel:

On behalf of my client, Lane County resident Stanton F. Long, I submit for your consideration and possible referral to the voters two proposed amendments to the Lane County Charter. The first measure would create a 15-member, non-partisan, citizen commission to assume responsibility for the decennial review and revision of Lane County Commission Districts. Under current law, the redistricting responsibility is borne directly by the Board of Commissioners itself, placing each Commissioner in the position of voting on the boundaries of his or her own district. The second measure is essentially housekeeping. It would name and generally describe the five districts comprising the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Long has no partisan or political interest in this matter beyond his life-long commitment to good government and the rule of law. In his career in Oregon public service, he has served Democrat and Republican administrations alike in diverse positions of responsibility such as Deputy Attorney General, Chair of the Land Conservation and Development Commission, Director of the Department of Commerce, and President of SAIF Corporation. He presents these

measures for your consideration because he believes they would enhance the confidence of Lane County residents in their government institutions.

In my nearly fifty years of work in and around Oregon state and local government, as Solicitor General, Deputy Attorney General, City Attorney, and legal counsel, I have become convinced that citizens' confidence in their government and political institutions is strengthened by government structures that advance both the appearance and the reality of fairness, accountability, and transparency in the political process. There is, perhaps, no subject more potentially corrosive of trust and confidence in government than the methods used to create and identify the political districts from which representatives are elected. Because current law places responsibility for that critical task in the hands of the elected representatives themselves--whose careers might depend on how those lines are drawn--the existing process can foster a perception that redistricting decisions are influenced by political gerrymandering, discrimination, and self-interest. In contrast, a redistricting method that gives that responsibility to a 15-member, non-partisan, citizen commission not only helps to bolster confidence in county government, but also makes the redistricting process itself a fairer and more representative one.

Mr. Long respectfully requests that the Board of Commissioners refer these charter amendments to the voters for their approval.

Very truly yours,



William F. Gary

WFG:gf

LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

Whereas we believe Lane County voters should choose their commissioners — commissioners should not choose their voters; and

Whereas Election Day is when Oregonians exercise their right to vote and make their voice heard; and

Whereas under current law, county politicians draw the boundaries for their own county districts, a serious conflict of interest that harms voters; and

Whereas county redistricting rules should be determined by a politically neutral entity; and

Whereas 96.3% percent of incumbent politicians are re-elected in the districts they have drawn for themselves year after year; and

Whereas current law allows politicians to draw districts to serve their interests, not those of our communities; and

Whereas the people of Lane County believe in fairness, accountability and transparency in political processes; and

Whereas Lane County Commission districts should be drawn to represent voters from all party affiliations, income levels, backgrounds, identities, and all corners of Lane County; and

Whereas voters across the country – from Arizona to California to Colorado to Michigan – have been moving to reject partisan gerrymandering, adopting reforms to make the redistricting process open and impartial so it is controlled by people, not partisan politicians; and

Whereas the people of Lane County need an independent commission to draw fair and impartial County Commission districts so that every vote matters; and

Whereas an independent Lane County Citizens Redistricting Commission provides a greater opportunity for under-represented communities like low-income Oregonians, persons of color, rural residents and seniors to have a voice in their representation; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the people of Lane County to create an independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the County Commission districts in an impartial and fully transparent manner, that will promote the representation of all residents; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the people of Lane County to require the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw County Commission districts based on strict nonpartisan rules designed to ensure fair representation, and guarantees redistricting will be carried out by a group of impartial Lane County residents, in open public meetings, without favor to incumbents or parties, and for every aspect of this process to be open to scrutiny by the public and the press; and now, therefore,

CHAPTER III

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION: POLICY AND PURPOSES

- (1) The Citizens Redistricting Commission is established. The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall consist of fifteen commissioners and be created no later than July 15, 2025, and thereafter no later and no more than December 31 in each year ending in the number one.
- (2) The County Clerk shall adopt rules as to each and every provision of this Charter Amendment as is necessary and proper to carry out the intentions and purposes of the Legislative Findings, and as necessary to facilitate and assist in achieving and maintaining a maximum degree of correctness, impartiality and efficiency in administration of subsections (3) through (24) of this section.

QUALIFICATIONS, DISQUALIFICATIONS

- (3) By December 3, 2024, and thereafter August 15 in each year ending in the number zero, the County Clerk shall initiate a process for individuals to apply for membership on the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The process shall promote a diverse and qualified applicant pool.

- (4) An individual may serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission if the individual:

- (a) Is registered to vote in Lane County;
- (b) For the three years preceding the initiation of the application process has been registered to vote in Lane County; and
- (c) Voted in at least two of the three most recent general elections.

- (5) Notwithstanding subsection (4) of this section, an individual may not serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission if the individual is or, within four years of the initiation of the application process, was:

- (a) A holder of or candidate for federal, state, county or other elective office for which the holder receives compensation other than for expenses;
- (b) An officer, employee or paid consultant of a political party;
- (c)
 - (i) An officer, director or employee of a campaign committee of a candidate for or holder of a federal, state county or local office; or
 - (ii) A paid contractor or member of the staff of a paid contractor of a campaign committee of a candidate for or holder of a federal, state, county or local office.
- (d) A registered lobbyist;
- (e) A paid congressional, legislative or county employee;
- (f) A member of the staff of a holder of a federal, state or county office;

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(g) A legislative or campaign contractor, or staff of the contractor, to a holder of a federal, state, county or local office; or

(h) A spouse, parent, child, sibling, in-law or cohabitating member of a household of an individual described in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of this paragraph.

(6) For purposes of this subsection, “state office” means the office of Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, State Senator, State Representative, Judge or District Attorney; “county office” means Lane County Commissioner or Sheriff; “local office” means Mayor, City Councilor or other elected position.

APPLICANT POOL

(7) No later than January 15, 2025, and thereafter no later than January 15 of the year ending in zero, the County Clerk of Lane County shall notify Citizens of Lane County that persons who satisfy the criteria in subsections (3)-(6) may apply for appointment to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

APPLICANT REVIEW

(8) No later than March 15, 2025, and thereafter no later than March 15 in each year ending with the number zero, after removing applicants who do not meet the qualifications and conditions as described in subsections (3)-(6), the County Clerk shall notify the Board of Commissioners and the general public the names of the individuals in the Applicant Pool in a manner that ensures widespread public access and provides the applications to the Board of Commissioners.

(9) Each member of the Applicant Pool shall be interviewed by the Board of Commissioners in a manner they deem fit.

SELECTION OF SUB-POOL

(10) No later than June 15, 2025, and thereafter no later than June 15 in each year ending with the number zero, each member of the Board of Commissioners in a sequential manner, starting with Board of Commissioner Position No. 1 and ending with Board of Commissioner Position No. 5, shall select two applicants who reside in each district for a total sub-pool of 50 individuals.

(11) In the event fewer than ten qualified individuals have applied for a district position, the Board of Commissioners shall choose all the qualified individuals from that district.

RANDOM SELECTION OF REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONERS

(12) No later than July 15, 2025, and thereafter no later than July 15 in each year ending with the number zero, at a time and place accessible to the general public, the County Clerk shall randomly select by lot 15 members to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission from the individuals presented under subsection (10) and (11) of this section as follows:

(a) Three individuals must reside in the West Lane District, represented by Position No. 1;;

(b) Three individuals must reside in the Springfield District, represented by Position No. 2;

(c) Three individuals must reside in the South Eugene District, represented by Position No. 3;

(d) Three individuals must reside in the North Eugene District, represented by Position No. 4 ;
and

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(e) Three individuals must reside in the East Lane District, represented by Position No. 5.

(13) In the event that fewer than three qualified individuals have applied for each district position, the Board of Commissioners shall choose all the qualified individuals from that district.

REMOVAL

(14) Upon petition by a resident of Lane County who is a registered voter, the Lane County Circuit Court may remove a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission in the event of substantial neglect of duty or gross misconduct in office, or if a Citizens Redistricting Commission member is unable to discharge the duties of the office. The member may contest the removal by means of an evidentiary hearing in circuit court in an action in the manner of an action for a declaratory judgment. The removal, if contested by the member, shall not be effective until judicial review is concluded.

VACANCY

(15) If a position among the Citizens Redistricting Commission becomes vacant, the County Clerk shall randomly select by lot out of the sub-pool an individual who resides in the same district as the individual that vacated the open position. In the event there are no qualified individuals from the district for which the individual vacated the position, the position will remain vacant.

ADMINISTRATION

(16) The Board of Commissioners shall:

(a) Provide staff, legal counsel and consultants as needed to accomplish the purposes of the Citizens Redistricting Commission and fulfill the Citizens Redistricting Commission's obligations. Any staff member, legal counsel or consultant may not serve the Citizens Redistricting Commission if the individual is described in subsection (5) of this section other than by virtue of the employee being an employee or contractor of the county.

(b) Make available a complete and accurate computerized database and precinct shapefiles for redistricting to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

(c) For each day a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission is engaged in the business of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, the member shall receive a per diem and a mileage reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses consistent with rules promulgated by the Clerk of Lane County.

(d) (i) An employer may not discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, coerce or retaliate against any employee by reason of the employee's service as a Citizens Redistricting Commissioner or staff of the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

(ii) If the employment of a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission is interrupted because of the performance of official duties as a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, the member's employer shall restore the member to the employment status the member would have enjoyed if the member had continued in employment during the performance of the official duties. This requirement shall not apply if the employer is a small business. As used in this subparagraph, "small business" means an independent business with fewer than 20 employees and with average annual gross receipts over the last three years not exceeding \$1 million for construction firms and \$300,000 for non-construction firms. "Small business" does not include a subsidiary or parent company belonging to a group of firms that are owned

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and controlled by the same individuals and that have average aggregate annual gross receipts in excess of \$1 million for construction firms or \$300,000 for non-construction firms over the last three years.

TERM OF SERVICE

(17) The term of office of each Citizens Redistricting Commissioner begins with their appointment to the Citizens Redistricting Commission and ends when the new districts are finalized.

TRANSPARENCY; PUBLIC INPUT

(18) The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall:

(a) Conduct an open and transparent process enabling full public participation, including public consideration of and comment on the drawing of Lane County Commission district boundaries.

(b) Draw district boundaries according to the redistricting criteria specified in subsection (21) of this section.

(c) Conduct all business of the Citizens Redistricting Commission with integrity, impartiality and fairness in a manner that reinforces public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process, including adopting rules that further these purposes.

(d) The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall provide at least 10 days' public notice for each meeting or hearing, except that meetings held within 15 days of August 15, in the year ending in the number one may be held with three days' notice. In the event that the Citizens Redistricting Commission must re-convene following a court order, meetings and hearings may be held with three days' notice. The records of the Citizens Redistricting Commission pertaining to redistricting and all data considered by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in redistricting are public records. The Citizens Redistricting Commission must post records and data in a manner that ensures immediate and widespread public access.

(e) A member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, staff or consultant shall disclose at the next meeting of the Citizens Redistricting Commission any communication, including the name of the person and the content of the communication, that person has had with any individual who is not a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, staff or consultant. Any written communications regarding redistricting received by a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission or Citizens Redistricting Commission staff or a Citizens Redistricting Commission consultant shall be considered a public record.

(f) Citizens Redistricting Commissioners shall comply with Oregon Public Records and Meetings Laws.

QUORUM; CHAIR; VOTING

(19) Eight Citizens Redistricting Commissioners constitutes a quorum for the conduct of business. The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall select, by a majority vote, one member to serve as chair and one member to serve as vice chair. The chair and vice chair may not be of the same political district.

(20) Official action by the Citizens Redistricting Commission requires an affirmative vote by eight or more Citizens Redistricting Commissioners. Approval of the final redistricting maps described in

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subsection (21) of this section requires eight or more affirmative votes, including at least one vote cast by a Citizens Redistricting Commission member from each district.

MAPPING CRITERIA

(21) The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall use a mapping process to establish Commission districts using the following criteria, to:

- (a) Comply with provisions of the United States Constitution relating to equal protection and the federal Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 1971 et seq.) or its successor law.
- (b) Achieve population equality as nearly as practicable using the total population of Lane County as determined by the decennial census preceding the redistricting process.
- (c) Be geographically contiguous.
- (d) To the extent practicable, and if possible without conflicting with the criteria set forth in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this paragraph, respect the geographic integrity and minimize the division of a city, county, local neighborhood and school district, government jurisdiction, community of common interest or other contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests and is cohesive for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

(22) When establishing districts under subsection (21) of this section, the Citizens Redistricting Commission may not:

- (a) Consider the place of residence of a holder of or candidate for public office;
- (b) Favor or discriminate against a holder of or candidate for public office or a political party; or
- (c) Create a district for the purpose of or with the effect of diluting the voting strength of any common social or economic interests. Common social and economic interests are those common to an urban area, a rural area, an industrial area or an agricultural area and those common to areas in which individuals share similar living standards, use of schools, use of the same transportation facilities, reside in the same watershed, have similar work opportunities or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process. Common social and economic interests do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents or political candidates.

HEARINGS

(23) The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall hold at least two public hearings prior to proposing a redistricting plan. In addition to the hearings required under this paragraph, the Citizens Redistricting Commission shall hold at least two additional public hearings after a redistricting plan is proposed, but before the plan is adopted.

ADOPTION OF FINAL MAPS – TIMING, REPORT

(24) No later than October 15, 2025, and thereafter no later than October 15 in each year ending with the number one, the Citizens Redistricting Commission shall approve final maps that separately set forth the district boundary lines for Lane County Commission districts. The Citizens Redistricting Commission shall issue, with the final maps, a report that includes an explanation of the basis on which the Citizens Redistricting Commission established the districts, responded to public input, and achieved compliance

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with the criteria listed in subsection (21) of this section and definitions of the terms and standards used in drawing each final map.

SUPERSEDEDENCE, SEVERABILITY

(25) If any provision of this Charter Amendment is held to be invalid, the court shall sever the provision and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. MEMBERSHIP, ELECTION AND TENURE

- (1) The board of commissioners shall consist of five county commissioners.
- (2) Except as this charter provides to the contrary, each commissioner shall be elected by district for a four-year term.
- (3) The board of county commissioners shall be elected as follows.
 - (a) At the November general election the commissioners shall be elected as provided for in this charter. Commissioner position numbers 3 and 4 shall be elected at the November general election of presidential election years and commissioner position numbers 1, 2, and 5 shall be elected at the November general election of non-presidential election years.
 - (b) At the election the candidate for each position who receives the highest number of votes cast shall be entitled to a certificate of election to office.
 - (c) The following election districts shall be established from which the commissioners shall be elected:
 - (i) The West Lane County District, ~~generally~~ comprised of **the entirety of** western Lane County outside the metropolitan area **and those contiguous areas necessary to comply with all applicable laws and provide equal protection under the law.** Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the commissioner elected from this district shall fill Position No. 1.
 - (ii) The Springfield District, ~~generally~~ comprised of **entirely within** the Springfield metropolitan area **inside the Urban Growth Boundary and those contiguous areas necessary to comply with all applicable laws and provide equal protection under the law.** Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the commissioner elected from this district shall fill Position No. 2.
 - (iii) The South Eugene District, ~~generally~~ comprised of **entirely within** the southern Eugene metropolitan area, **defined as south of Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River inside the Urban Growth Boundary, and those contiguous areas necessary, if any, to comply with all applicable laws and provide equal protection under the law.** Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the commissioner elected from this district shall fill Position No. 3.
 - (iv) The North Eugene District, ~~generally~~ comprised of **entirely within** the northern Eugene metropolitan area, **defined as north of Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River inside the Urban Growth Boundary, and those contiguous areas necessary, if any, to comply with all applicable laws and provide equal protection under the law.** Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the commissioner elected from this district shall fill Position No. 4.
 - (v) The East Lane County District, ~~generally~~ comprised of eastern Lane County outside the metropolitan area **and those contiguous areas necessary to comply with all applicable laws and provide equal protection under the law.** Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the commissioner elected from this district shall fill Position No. 5.

(d) In accordance with Federal, State, or County census figures, the boundaries of the five districts shall be drawn by the board of commissioners so as not to deny any person equal protection of the law. The board of commissioners shall, not less than every 10 years, initiate review of the population densities of each district and modify boundaries when necessary. No boundary creation, position designation or boundary change shall disqualify a commissioner from completing the term of office to which that commissioner was elected or appointed.

(e) The board of commissioners shall adopt by ordinance the district boundaries as required by subsection (d) above. District boundaries shall be finally adopted at least six months prior to any election for which they are to be effective.

CUSIMANO Jenna L

From: John Quetzalcoatl Murray <johnq@publicnewspapers.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 15, 2024 4:13 PM
To: Lane County Public Comment; *LC Board of County Commissioners
Cc: CUSIMANO Jenna L
Subject: Public comment for Lane County charter review

[EXTERNAL 

To: Lane County Commissioners, Charter Review Committee
Cc: Jenna Cusimano

With the Lane County Board of Commissioners continuing to accept public comment on the charter review, this public comment adds detail to my earlier comments to the charter review committee:

F	G	H	I	J	K	L
What do you think should be the top three priorities for the Charter Review Committee to consider when reviewing the County Charter?	Are there any other specific changes or updates you would like to see made to the Lane County charter?	Are you in favor of changing the name of Lane County?	Please briefly explain the reasoning for your choice.	If you are in favor of changing the name, please suggest a new name for Lane County.	Should the names and descriptions of the county commissioner districts remain as is in the Charter (see page 8 of the charter)?	Please briefly explain the reasoning for your choice.
Organize by watershed, enable participatory democracy, recognize rights of nature		0 Yes	Realign by watershed adopt name of the watersheds	Watershed names according to USGS dataset	No	Align with watershed boundaries

Human use of fire, and our ingenuity in finding new fuels to burn, has ushered in a new era of warming on our planet known as the Pyrocene Age, during which water will become paramount to our survival as a species.

It is worth reviewing what John Wesley Powell, head of the U.S. Geological Survey, testified to the states of Montana and North Dakota as they held their constitutional conventions in 1889: He suggested aligning county administrative boundaries with watersheds.

This small change would build greater watershed awareness among citizens and agencies. Our political names and identities will match those of our major river systems and water bodies. Aligning county and agency administrative boundaries to watersheds will promote a holistic approach to water quality, air quality, habitat improvements, fish and wildlife health. It will better position our children and grandchildren to preserve and improve watershed health in response to rapidly accelerating climate change.

Here are the statements that John Wesley Powell shared with Montana and North Dakota in 1889:

"I want to present to you what I believe to be ultimately the political system which you have got to adopt in this country, and which the United States will be compelled sooner or later ultimately to recognize. I believe that the primary unit of organization...should be the drainage basin which would practically have a county organization---then that the government of the United States should cede all of the lands of that drainage basin to the people who live in that basin... I believe that the people of the drainage basin themselves are more interested than any other people can be in that particular drainage basin---that they are the only people who can properly administer that trust, and I believe that the people who live along every valley in this country should be the people who control three things besides the land on which they live---they should have the control of the water; they should have the control of the common or pasturage lands, and they should have the control of timber lands... Careful study of the matter will show you that the drainage basin is the natural unit and should be a county of this state. If then you will provide a system of counties by drainage basins, you have the fundamental organizations, and can in time acquire all the other rights and assume all the other duties which that organization demands." (from Proceeding and Debate of the Constitutional Convention [Montana], 820-23.)

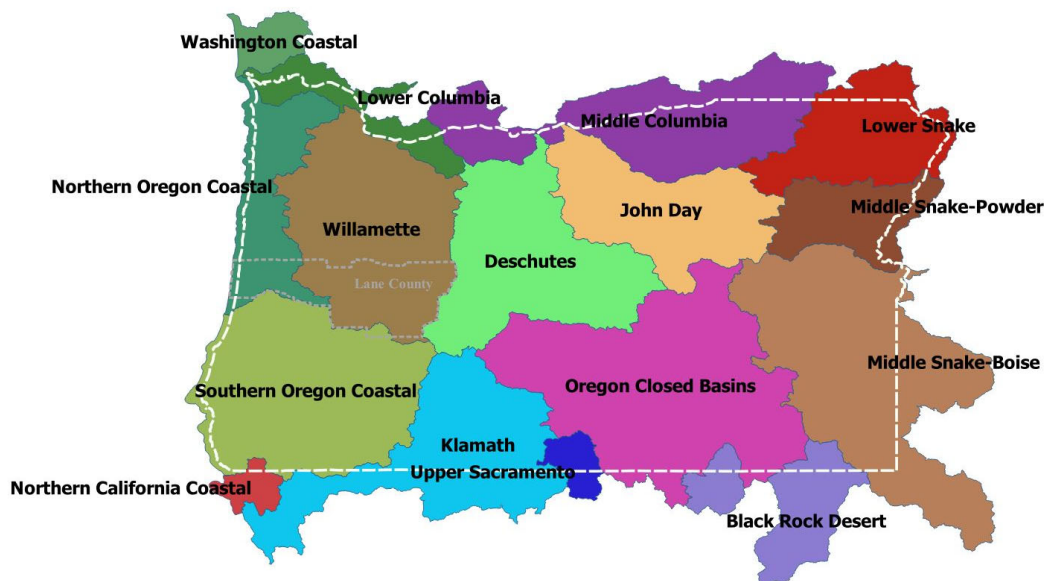
"You should provide in the Constitution which you are making, that the water which falls from the heavens and rolls to the sea, down your great rivers —that water shall be under the control of the people, subject always to the will of the people, that property in water should be impossible for individuals to possess." (from Major Powell's Address, Official Report of First Constitutional Convention of North Dakota, 410-12.)

Today, the same agency that John Wesley Powell once led provides national maps of these watersheds at different levels of detail. Large basins are made up of smaller watersheds, as shown in this illustration from [the Watershed Boundary Dataset](#):

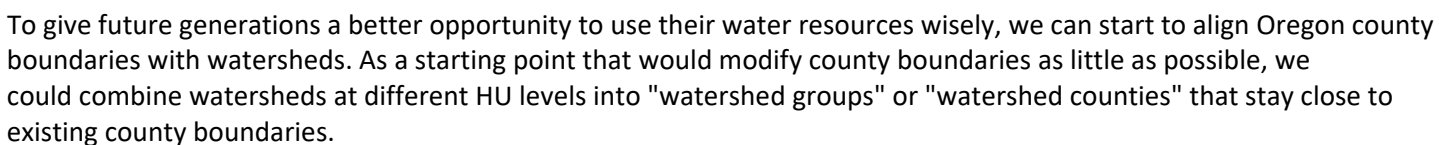


A Lane County example of this explanatory illustration might show the HU6 level Willamette Basin as including the HU8 "Upper Willamette" basin, which in turns includes a smaller HU10 "Long Tom River" watershed, which in turn includes a smaller HU12 "Amazon Creek" watershed, as in this short video, which zooms in and out to show Oregon's watersheds at different levels of detail: <https://youtu.be/nSzZZrVt-Q>

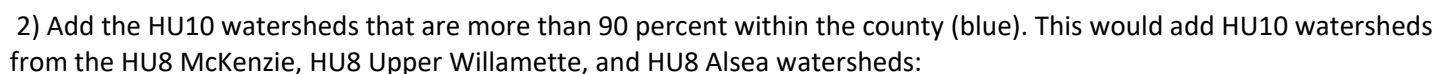
Here are the major HU6 watersheds within Oregon state lines:

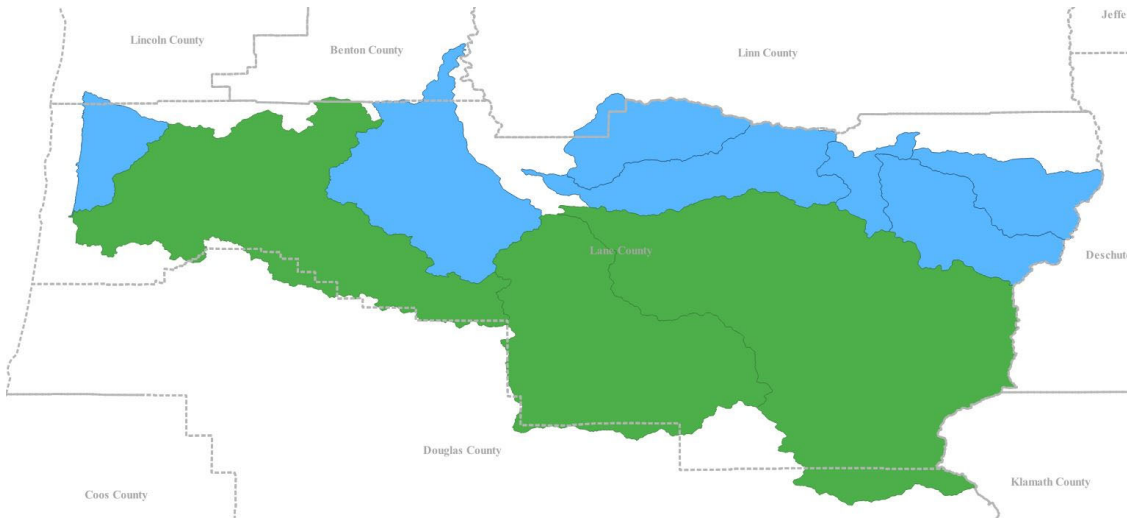


At the next level of detail, there are just over 90 HU8 watersheds intersecting Oregon:

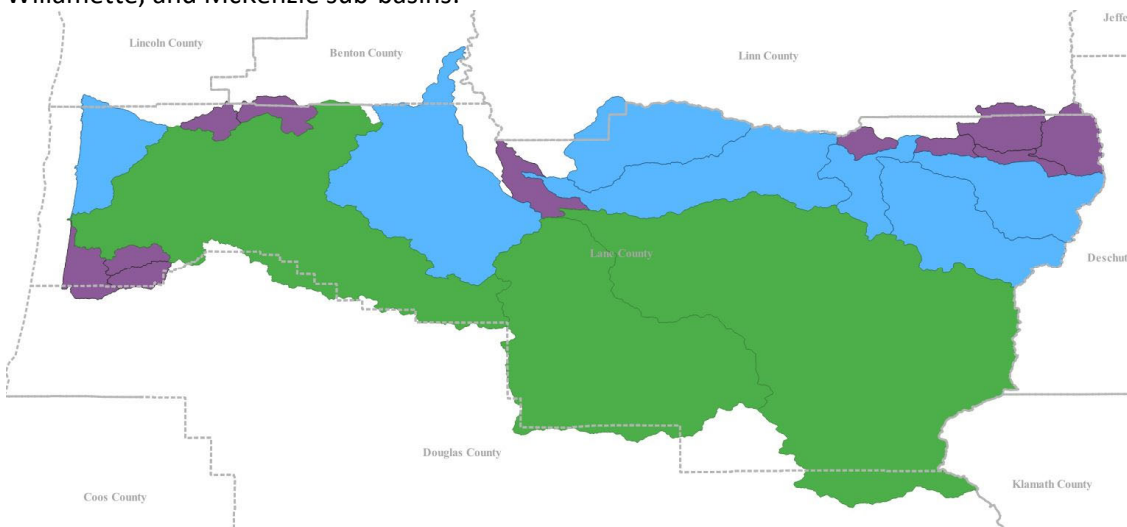


1) Add HU8 watersheds that are 90% or more within the county (green). For Lane County, this would pick up the entirety of the Middle Fork Willamette, Coast Fork Willamette, and Siuslaw watersheds.





3) Add the HU12 watersheds that are more than 90 percent within the county (purple). This adds Siltcoos, Alsea, Upper Willamette, and McKenzie sub-basins:

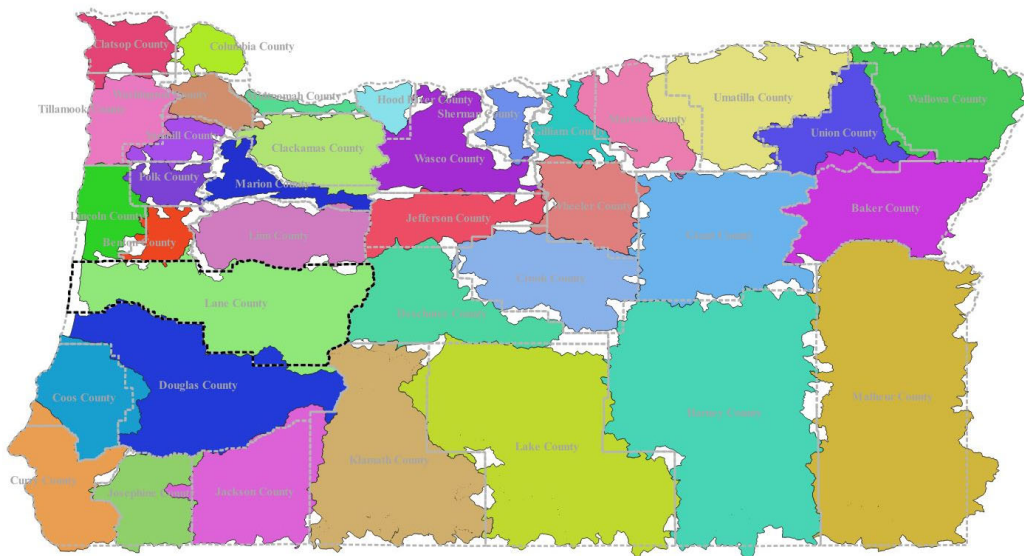


The white spaces within the existing Lane County boundaries show where the remaining HU12 watersheds are shared by two or more counties. These counties would negotiate on where to draw those final lines.

The same process can be applied to every Oregon county. The result (90 percent threshold) shows all of the shared areas to be negotiated among the counties:



These maps can be produced using different threshold values to create different starting points for negotiations. For example, the 80 percent version produces smaller gaps:



Water is life. As we recognize that our survival as a species is linked to the preservation of our water resources, the small adaptive changes we make today---to start aligning our political institutions with the natural boundaries of the planet---will serve our grandchildren and great-grandchildren well.

I am willing to support Lane County staff in developing multiple alternatives for your consideration, and to help fine-tune the final proposal based on your guidance.

Lane County can lead the state and nation in this transformative change by following the recommendations of the visionary John Wesley Powell, and by proposing to the voters of Lane County a charter amendment that aligns commissioner districts with watersheds.

Peace,
 John Q. Murray
 4785 Fox Hollow Rd
 Eugene OR 97405

CUSIMANO Jenna L

From: Hope S <lsv1953@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 2:12 PM
To: CUSIMANO Jenna L
Subject: PROPOSED CHARTER REVIEW AMENDMENT - CRC PUBLIC HEARING
Attachments: Charter Amendment draft proposal.pdf

[EXTERNAL 

Ms. Cusimano,

Please confirm receipt of this email with a proposed Charter amendment attached for the June 26 public hearing.

It is my understanding, based on the Board discussion on June 11 and 12, that the Board will consider all suggestions for amendments to the Lane County Charter in conjunction with the Charter Review Committee proposal that is the subject of the June 26 Public Hearing. In addition, suggestions received by noon on Monday June 24 will be provided on line with all other public hearing documents.

Thank you.

Hope Vaccher
LWLC



*Protecting Our Natural Heritage
From the Coast to the Cascades*

P.O. Box 5347 • Eugene, OR 97405 • (541) 741-3625 • www.landwatch.net

June 21, 2024

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

In that the Lane County Board of Commissioners, at a public meeting on June 12, 2024, stated their interest in hearing suggestions from any Lane County citizens regarding amendments to the Lane County Charter, LandWatch Lane County submits the following for the Board's consideration.

LWLC understands that one of the criteria for a Charter amendment is that the amendment will stand the test of time. This proposed amendment is not one that will require ongoing changes to the Charter by the voters of Lane County and was not considered by the Charter Review Committee. It will stand the test of time.

PROPOSAL

Amend the Lane County Charter, Chapter III: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Section 10: MEMBERSHIP, ELECTION AND TENURE, subsection (2) as follows in italics:

Except as this charter provides to the contrary, each commissioner shall be elected by district for a four-year term. *Each commissioner is limited to three(3) four-year terms.*

CUSIMANO Jenna L

From: Jim Babson <jim@westerncascades.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 9:15 AM
To: CUSIMANO Jenna L
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 06/26/2024
Attachments: Proposed Charter Amendment.docx

[EXTERNAL 

Hello Ms. Cusimano,

Please include this Proposed Charter Amendment in the meeting materials for the June 26th Charter Review Committee Public Hearing.

Thank you,

James Babson
40237 Reuben Leigh Rd.
Lowell, OR 97452

James Babson
40237 Reuben Leigh Rd.
Lowell, OR 97452

June 23, 2024

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

To ensure fairness, accountability and transparency in Lane County political processes, I propose that the Lane County Charter be amended by replacing the entirety of Section 35: CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE with all of the following:

Section 35. CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE. Every ten years, beginning in 2034, the Board of County Commissioners shall convene a Charter Review Committee to review the existing charter and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding suggested amendments to the Charter.

(1) Membership. The Charter Review Committee shall consist of fifteen (15) Regular members and three (3) Alternate Members. Each member of the Board of County Commissioners shall appoint a member to each subsequent charter review committee by July 1st of the year that each subsequent committee is convened. The five (5) Regular members of the committee appointed by the individual commissioners shall select the remaining ten (10) Regular and three (3) Alternate committee members. The membership of the Charter Review Committee should reflect the diversity of Lane County and shall include members with the following characteristics: areas of expertise, advocacy experience, community involvement, profession, education, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, age, religion, speaking English as a second language and geographic identification, political affiliation and non-affiliated voters. Subsequent Charter Review Committees shall be appointed in the same manner every 10 years.

(2) Timeframe. Members shall immediately begin meeting to review the current Charter, and shall report back to the Board of County Commissioners with recommendations for any suggested changes no later than two years from the date each subsequent committee is convened.

(3) Amendments. The Board of Commissioners must select all, some, or none of the amendments recommended by the Charter Review Committee to be placed before the voters of Lane County in a general election. The Board of Commissioners shall not place any amendment before the voters that was not suggested by the Charter Review Committee.

CUSIMANO Jenna L

From: John White <joruwh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:42 AM
To: CUSIMANO Jenna L
Subject: Submission for Charter Review Committee Hearing

[EXTERNAL 

RE: Charter Review Committee Hearing

Dear Ms. Cusimano,

I would like to submit the following points concerning the Charter Review Committee amendment proposal:

The Board of Commissioners received a "Proposed Lane County Charter Amendment" from Stanton Long, a private citizen, that will presumably be included in the meeting materials for the public hearing on the Charter Review Committee amendment recommendations. It contains several problems and errors worth noting.

1) The first page is titled "Legislative Findings". These are not legislative findings. They are one individual's musings and opinions.

2) Mr. Long's proposal calls for a "Citizens Redistricting Commission...(to) be created no later than July 15, 2025..." He offers no reasons, rationales or arguments why Lane County should institute an extra redistricting process in the middle of the normal ten-year cycle of redistricting in conjunction with the U.S. census. It would be a pointless undertaking, as there is no new population data, unless the point is to somehow gerrymander the Lane County Commissioner districts.

3) The proposal includes new descriptions of the five County election districts, (10(3)(c)). The descriptions are more specific than the existing ones but without an accompanying map they are impossible to interpret. What does "the entirety of western Lane County" mean? Why is Roosevelt Boulevard arbitrarily chosen as the border between North and South Eugene?

4) The proposal concludes with 10(3)(d) and 10(3)(e), copied verbatim from the Lane County Charter. 10(3)(d) stipulates that the redistricting process shall occur "not less than every 10 years". Initiating the process in 2025 is certainly less than 10 years from the previous redistricting, making Mr. Long's proposal internally contradictory.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John White
Creswell

From: [Jay Jones](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:26:41 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Lane County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Citizens Redistricting Commission and the amendment clarifying commissioner districts. As a resident of this county, I am deeply convinced that fair and impartial redistricting is not just important, but absolutely necessary for the integrity of our democratic process and the equal representation of all citizens. It's time for voters to choose their politicians, not the other way around.

A Citizens Redistricting Commission would remove the redistricting process from the hands of partisan politicians and place it in the hands of an independent body of citizens. This would help to ensure that district lines are drawn fairly and without regard to political considerations. It is imperative that we have a system in place that prioritizes the best interests of our communities and not just the interests of political parties.

Furthermore, the amendment clarifying commissioner districts is crucial for ensuring that the commission is composed of individuals who are truly representative of the county's diverse population. This amendment is simply clarifying Chapter 3, Section 10(c) to ensure that our communities of interests are protected from splitting due to partisan gerrymandering.

Living near Sheldon High School and the Randy Pape Beltline Highway, I find it perplexing that despite our geographical proximity to what is commonly considered the northern area of Eugene, most of my neighbors are actually part of the South Eugene Commissioner District. This personal experience of the disconnect between geographical proximity and political boundaries is a stark illustration of the issues at hand, and it's why many in our state and country are deeply skeptical of our political leaders.

I urge you to support the Citizens Redistricting Commission and the amendment clarifying commissioner districts. These measures would be a significant step towards creating a more fair and democratic redistricting process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jay Jones

--



Jay Jones

Owner | Squiddl
Video Production
Squiddl

 the.jay.jones@gmail.com
 [541-953-2111](tel:541-953-2111)
 2677 Willakenzie Rd., Suite 1
Eugene, OR 97401
 squiddl.com



From: [Charles](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Charter amendments
Date: Sunday, June 16, 2024 2:22:17 PM

[EXTERNAL]

As part of the effort to get an amendment before the voters it took months of signature gathering and publicizing the issue so I don't have any sympathy for a well to do lawyer and his firm coming into the process at the last minute to secure an amendment to the charter!

I was part of the original East Alton Baker Park Amendment that is up for repeal and I was surprised the City Parks Department and the Citizens Planning Committee had not been informed about the plan to repeal it from the county charter.

Thank you for your consideration,

Charles Biggs

Eugene, OR 97401

Sent from my iPhone

From: [robin riseup](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: County Redistricting PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 8:11:59 PM

[EXTERNAL]

County Redistricting PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024

County Commissioners,

I disapprove of these sudden proposals coming from one person outside of the years long Charter Review Committee process. Stan Long had plenty of time to present these to the committee, but waited till the last minute in order to avoid the vetting process and ram this through with no public comment. Why are these serious amendments being treated with equal weight and rigor as the recommendations put forth by the Charter Review Committee?

I live North of Roosevelt and do not want to see it become EVEN more conservative by design! Future consequences are unknown, but could easily require a public vote to amend the Charter in order to meet other requirements of redistricting—a needless, time-consuming and confusing consequence!

I write with strong support for the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Mr. Stan Long.

Please keep faith with the process you initiated, consider only the Charter Review Committee recommendations, and invite Mr. Long to participate in the next iteration of the Charter Review Committee in a more timely manner.

Thank you,
Robin Bloomgarden
3690 Wood Ave
Eugene, OR 97402
541-688-1820

From: [DJ Larson](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024.
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 5:37:30 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Lane County Commissioners

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on potential charter amendments. As a resident of Springfield, I strongly oppose the proposed charter amendment that would remove the names of the commissioner districts. It is important to recognize that Springfield has its unique characteristics and needs. The name of our current commissioner districts fosters a sense of community and allows for better representation of the diverse interests of our residents. Removing the names would diminish the connection between constituents and their elected officials, making it more challenging to address local concerns effectively. I urge you to reject this amendment and maintain the integrity of our current district system.

Additionally, the proposed Independent Redistricting Committee Charter Amendment is not truly independent as the members are appointed by the commissioners. This undermines the credibility and impartiality of the committee and raises concerns about the fairness and transparency of the redistricting process.

DJ Larson
Springfield, OR

From: [oakley wilson wilson](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Meeting comment for June 26, 2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 4:35:40 PM

[EXTERNAL]

I strongly support the proposed redistricting recommendations of the Charter Review Committee, both for the meritorious conclusions reached, and because of the democratic process that produced them.

I just as strongly oppose the proposed changes from Stan Long, both because moving Whitaker to the South Region would be the kind of gerrymandering for political purposes that bedevils our national politics, and because granting Mr. Long the power to change the course of the committee without the kind of rigorous process the committee undertook.

Please grant the committee the respect it richly deserves, and perhaps Mr. Long can join the committee next time so his ideas can be tested along with the ideas of others.

Thank you for your consideration,

David O Wilson
3870 Ferry Street
Eugene, Oregon 97405

From: [Kay King](#)
To: annamorrison55@aol.com; [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Re: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 3:46:38 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Very good!!!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: annamorrison55@aol.com <annamorrison55@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 3:44:08 PM
To: publiccomment@lanecountyor.gov <publiccomment@lanecountyor.gov>
Cc: lcbcccom@co.lane.or.us <lcbcccom@co.lane.or.us>
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024

Sear Lane County Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for your efforts to forward the charter amendment from the public and your opposition to removing the names of the commissioner's districts.

As a former commissioner, it is important to have a government that is responsive to the needs of its constituents. I want to commend this body for being so responsive to the public and allow for comment on additional charter amendments. I would trust if there were others you would allow for public comment as well. The charter is our guiding document for how our county government should operate. Throughout the history of Lane, County, the majority of the charter amendments have been crafted by the commissioners, then ultimately approved or not approved by the voters. The charter review committee wasn't a function of the county when I was a commissioner, it is yet another tool for the commission and public to start the amendment process.

Regarding the specific amendments being reviewed, I am also concerned about the proposal to remove the names of the commissioner districts. I believe that these names are an important part of our county's history and heritage. They reflect the diversity of our county and the different communities that make it up. THIS AMENDMENT WAS HIGHLY POPULAR WHEN IT WAS PASSED IN 1982, IT WAS APPROVED IN MAY, 1982 WITH A VOTE OF 60.46% (42,197) YES AND 30% (18,552) NO. Additionally, your charter review committee did public outreach in the form of two surveys and on both occasions, the results of their surveys were overwhelmingly opposed to removing the names. So why did your charter review committee recommend this amendment? Removing these names would be a disservice to our past and to our future.

I urge you to oppose the removal of the names of the commissioner districts. These

are important issues that will have a lasting impact in our county.

Sincerely

Anna Morrison
Former WEST Lane County Commissioner
1999-2006

From: annamorrison55@aol.com
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 3:44:16 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Sear Lane County Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for your efforts to forward the charter amendment from the public and your opposition to removing the names of the commissioner's districts.

As a former commissioner, it is important to have a government that is responsive to the needs of its constituents. I want to commend this body for being so responsive to the public and allow for comment on additional charter amendments. I would trust if there were others you would allow for public comment as well. The charter is our guiding document for how our county government should operate. Throughout the history of Lane, County, the majority of the charter amendments have been crafted by the commissioners, then ultimately approved or not approved by the voters. The charter review committee wasn't a function of the county when I was a commissioner, it is yet another tool for the commission and public to start the amendment process.

Regarding the specific amendments being reviewed, I am also concerned about the proposal to remove the names of the commissioner districts. I believe that these names are an important part of our county's history and heritage. They reflect the diversity of our county and the different communities that make it up. THIS AMENDMENT WAS HIGHLY POPULAR WHEN IT WAS PASSED IN 1982, IT WAS APPROVED IN MAY, 1982 WITH A VOTE OF 60.46% (42,197) YES AND 30% (18,552) NO. Additionally, your charter review committee did public outreach in the form of two surveys and on both occasions, the results of their surveys were overwhelmingly opposed to removing the names. So why did your charter review committee recommend this amendment? Removing these names would be a disservice to our past and to our future.

I urge you to oppose the removal of the names of the commissioner districts. These are important issues that will have a lasting impact in our county.

Sincerely

Anna Morrison
Former WEST Lane County Commissioner
1999-2006

From: [Sydne Tucker-Vivian](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#); [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 3:35:00 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Lane County,

Thanks for taking my testimony and thank you for taking the time to have a public hearing on the charter, after all this is the public's document. I live Southwest of Eugene in the Spencer Creek area, the East Lane County District. My inclusion in the East Lane district has to do with my approximate distance to the Creswell area. I have always liked being in a rural commissioner district and I appreciate the way the county is divided by 5 districts with 2 rural, 2 Eugene, and 1 Springfield. It was perfect. However, during the last redistricting process, there were many instances of Eugene creeping into the other districts. This was wrong. And now I am reading that the county would like to receive feedback on whether to adopt the process in which this happened and adopt it into our charter.

I also oppose the removal of the names of the districts.

Thank you,
Sydne Tucker

From: [Bill Vivian](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#); [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024- Rural is Rural & Opposed to Removal Districts Names
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 3:32:43 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Lane County,

Thanks for taking my testimony and thank you for taking the time to have a public hearing on the charter, after all this is the public's document. I live Southwest of Eugene in the Spencer Creek area, the East Lane County District. My inclusion in the East Lane district has to do with my approximate distance to the Creswell area. I have always liked being in a rural commissioner district and I appreciate the way the county is divided by 5 districts with 2 rural, 2 Eugene, and 1 Springfield. It was perfect. However, during the last redistricting process, there were many instances of Eugene creeping into the other districts. This was wrong. And now I am reading that the county would like to receive feedback on whether to adopt the process in which this happened and adopt it into our charter.

I also oppose the removal of the names of the districts. I believe we value community by its unique name and identity. Change can be more confusing than positive.

Thank you,
Bill Vivian

From: [Will Gray](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 2:54:50 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and oppose the Stan Long proposals.

I oppose the Stan Long proposals because these proposed substantive changes- constructed by one person-:

bypass existing procedures and democratic safeguards

undermine independent redistricting efforts

would reduce faith in elections and civic participation

result in additional, unknown, financial costs to the County and local taxpayers.

The Stan Long proposals would bypass democratic safeguards and procedures by seeking to circumvent the Charter Review Committee and existing processes. Additionally, these unvetted proposals, which have been subject to any real test of popular scrutiny, represent the values and interests of a single individual or, at most, a tiny group of partisans with a likely financial conflict of interest in bringing such formal proposals before your esteemed body.

The Stan Long proposals would undermine newly enacted independent redistricting efforts by undoing the hard work and results of that redistricting committee. It is important to note that the independence of that redistricting committee is critical to preserving the credibility of elections at a time of historic attacks- some quite literal- on elections and election workers. The public has now arguably become accustomed to hearing that an election has somehow been rigged every time a candidate loses. Stripping the Charter Review Committee of a valuable tool and making it less independent or more partisan is objectively a bad decision in a democratic system.

Additionally, the Stan Long proposals, if adopted, would almost certainly result in costly litigation. If implementable immediately, local elections could have to be conducted vastly differently, with mere months to go before what many see as an existential election for our nation. Voter education and outreach would be needed to explain any changes. Ballots could require reprinting. Et cetera. The projected costs seem unaccounted for, and represent a substantial additional burden for and to the good people who administer our beautiful county.

Beyond the administrative infeasibility and financial impositions, the Stan Long proposals seem designed to divide our communities by mixing historically conservative areas in with historically liberal ones. It's partisan gerrymandering. However, this partisan gerrymander, if enacted, could quite literally pit the political power of the Whitaker- known perhaps for its

environmental activist bent- against more rural logging interests. For anyone with any knowledge of local institutions and the fact that a certain former President is running up ballot... lining the folks in the Whit up in front of a bunch of loggers and telling them to just figure it all out is not a good idea.

Based on my years of academic and professional experience in public policy, which includes serving as a teacher's assistant in policy at the University of Oregon while pursuing graduate studies, I ask you to reject the Stan Long proposals for the reasons stated above.

Thank you,

William Gray
1795 Moss St.
Eugene, OR, 97403

will Gray

MPA/M.Ed student

"I have no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society." U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken



From: ggce@aol.com
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR 6/26/24 MEETING
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 1:55:56 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Lane County Board of Commissioners,

Please accept our comments on the Charter Review Committee proposals regarding redistricting. We strongly support establishment of an "Independent Redistricting Committee".

The current redistricting process in Lane County is deeply flawed. Presently, the committee is dominated by political operatives dedicated to securing political power rather than assuring citizens interests are honestly represented. Lane County rural voters are being disenfranchised and their voices stifled.

We support a non-partisan "Citizens Redistricting Commission" that includes comprehensive ethical and conflict of interest checks on applicants for appointment to the commission.

The revised district descriptions are insulting, diluting the identity of rural voters as merely a "subset" of Eugene. We live in rural Lane County by choice and want our "rural voices" to be recognized and heard by the county government.

We urge the Commission to support Charter Amendment proposals as submitted by Commissioner Ceniga. Many believe the most recent redistricting was a shameful example of "gerrymandering" and simply an ugly process of assuring powerful interests and politicians maintain control. It's time for a fair, transparent and non-political redistricting process!

Sincerely,

Gordon and Gail Culbertson
Walterville, Oregon

From: [George Grier](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 1:44:17 PM
Attachments: [Grier Testimony Charter Review Committee 06 26 2024.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL]

Please include the attached testimony on the Board Agenda with a “view material” link and also be included in the materials for the public hearing agenda item in advance of the meeting on Wednesday, June 26th.

Thank you,

George Grier



Virus-free www.avast.com

Testimony Before the Lane County Board of Commissioners
Submitted Electronically
June 26, 2024

My name is George Grier. I live at 1342 66th Street, Springfield ,Oregon. I want to thank the Charter Review Committee for its work.

Some of the present Board of Commissioners have voiced concern that they were elected from a district different than the one they now represent. This was because the previous board failed to adopt new districts in a timely manner. This is not the fault of the previous 2021 Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) nor the process that it used. But that frustration is now what we're dealing with. It's important to review what happened because two of the present commissioners were not part of the 2021 process, and may not understand the history or the process that was used.

It is a Federal and State requirement that all the districts are more or less of the same population. This is why no more frequently than every 10 years concurrent with the release of new census data, the present charter requires the districts be reevaluated to make sure that they are of approximately equal population, and that their present boundaries do not deny any person equal protection of the law. This reevaluation is based on census data that is collected every 10 years.

Prior to the present redistricting process which was created by the Board in 2021, the Board of Commissioners set the boundaries, often without much public input. The latest redistricting process establishing an independent redistricting committee is extraordinarily more transparent than any process used previously.

The proposal submitted to you by Mr. Long does very little to enhance transparency. Its real objective is to open the door for a costly new redistricting before the required 10 years has elapsed. There is no new census data to use. And there is no new justification for re-drawing the boundaries, other than frustration by some of the commissioners.

Mr. Long does not mention any of the past history of the districts or how complicated and expensive a redistricting process is. This is of critical importance because the charter is meant to be an overarching document and not one that gets in the weeds of things like payment of committee members. The CRC's approach is more sensible and can timely adapt to unanticipated changes (for example: technology) more easily.

The Board should consider the following:

First: there is a practical requirement that any redistricting take place after a new census. What the last IRC experienced was that the census data was not released in a timely manner for the IRC to complete its process prior to the next election. This was not the fault of the county's process nor the IRC. Mr. Long fails to mention that the census data is what drives the process and to a large degree the boundaries

themselves. District boundaries change to meet the requirement that all districts have equal populations. This is why the predominantly rural districts will always have some urban voters and why the “Springfield” district has historically had some Eugene voters.

Second: Mr. Long's proposal does a great deal to exclude people who would be eligible to serve on an IRC. It does absolutely nothing to insure that there is any equity or balance on the committee. This is a fatal flaw.

Third: the task that the IRC is charged with is technically demanding, and requires a great deal of time and commitment from the volunteers that serve on the committee. The last IRC lost several members because of these demands. That resulted in the process taking much longer than anticipated as new members got up to speed.

Fourth: the task requires some technical expertise that is not a common skill set for most people. It requires familiarity with GIS software and present boundaries of communities of interest. It also requires the committee members to become familiar with many functions of county government such as special districts, and the County Clerk's function and requirements. These are important factors that cannot be changed if an IRC is to meet its legal requirements.

As part of its report to the Board, the 2021 IRC provided several suggestions about improving the selection process, education, staff support, GIS software and technical support. I do not see anything in the record about reviewing these suggestions. They underscore how lengthy, complicated, time consuming and staff intensive this process is.

If the Board decides to try and change the current redistricting process it must be prepared to allocate sufficient resources for the committee to do its job. It should consider whether any cost associated with a premature redistricting process can be justified given that there is no new data for a new IRC to work with and that the county is in the middle of a budget crisis.

Finally, I would like to express my frustration that you are willing to give equal weight to a last-minute proposal by an individual who has chosen to go outside the process that you selected for the Charter Review Committee. It is disheartening that you are willing to so easily devalue all of the volunteer effort and expertise provided by this committee.

Thank you.

George Grier
Member 2021 IRC

From: [Laurie Moses](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 1:21:56 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Stan Long. His proposals are coming from outside the Charter Review Committee process and are not being treated as public comment, but rather as equal weight to the Committee's recommendations. His last minute proposals have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Review Committee. Mr. Long could have presented his package long ago, but chose not to do so.

Mr. Long's proposals disregard the year long work of the Review Committee, effectively making what was a transparent process appear to have been a waste of time.

Moving the Whitaker area from the North District and adding it to the South District is an example of the type of gerrymandering that unfairly tips the balance in favor of one party or another. The result of this gerrymandering is that it would be easier for conservatives to win the North District.

Eugene is smarter than that.

I strongly support the work of the process you initiated, that of the work of the Charter Review Committee, and pay no heed to Mr. Long's last minute proposals.

Respectfully,

Laurie Moses
3870 Ferry Street
Eugene OR 97405

From: [Nash Allen](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#); [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW - PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING 6/26/2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 11:58:03 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Commissioners,

I don't often write in public comment but wanted to raise my concern about the Independent Redistricting Charter Amendment. I think we can all agree we want our redistricting to be less partisan and controversial but this proposal is based on the redistricting committee that was established in 2021. That redistricting was highly controversial because it is not really independent because of the influence the commissioners have in the process.

In 2021, the Independent Redistricting Committee of Lane County designed a map that included my neighborhood in Laurel Hill/Moon Mountain with the Springfield Commissioner District. This was incorrect. People living in the Laurel Hill neighborhood identify more strongly with South Eugene than with Springfield voters. Many Laurel Hill/Moon Mountain residents work, shop, and socialize in Downtown & South Eugene. Many members of this area have a work or personal connection with the University of Oregon. Our children often attend Eugene 4J schools. But most importantly we are Eugene residents, but we are all represented by the Springfield County Commissioner. Springfield residents deserve their own representation, and so do Eugene residents.

Please don't approve this charter amendment, we don't need another process that will create a result like this again. There surely has to be a better process that better represents our area. The last one seemed very partisan.

Sincerely,

Nash Allen
Laurel Hill/Moon Mountain

From: [Tami Davis](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Charter Amendments
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 10:46:51 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Lane County Commissioners,

Thanks for the opportunity to submit testimony on these charter amendments recommended by the Charter Review Committee. I'd like to state upfront that I am very opposed to CRC Proposals 1 and 2 and mildly opposed to 3,5,6.

First, with 1 & 2, I believe these are attempts to remove community identities and gerrymander. I live in the county and my rural identity is deeply rooted in a sense of community and connection to the land, distinct from the hustle and bustle of urban life. In rural areas, life often revolves around agriculture, natural landscapes, and traditions passed down through generations. Rural communities foster close-knit relationships where neighbors know each other by name and often rely on mutual support. The pace of life tends to be slower, allowing for a stronger emphasis on family, local customs, and a shared heritage. This distinct identity is shaped by a sense of belonging to a place where nature intertwines with everyday existence. Also rural voters have different priorities than urban ones.

My mild opposition to 3,5,6 comes from a general distrust of government. The committee states that 3 and 5 serve no purpose anymore, but why remove these protective and government-constraining measures? The charter can function fine with them, and what if the state laws change or the county wants to enact an income tax? Additionally, the charter review committee is just another committee; if the county wants to create a committee, they can do that anytime. Why not just remove Section 35 from the charter?

Thanks
Tami Davis, Walterville

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Linda Davies](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Charter Review Committee recommendations regarding redistricting
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 10:23:42 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board:

We are writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Mr. Stan Long. Our opposition to Long's proposals are made on both a process and content basis.

On the process side, these proposals from one person are coming from outside the Charter Review Committee process and are being treated with equal weight as the Committee's recommendations, rather than as a public comment on the Charter Review Committee recommendation. Mr. Long had ample opportunity to present this package to the Committee but chose not to do so. So these last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee. Also, making a mapping adjustment now is not transparent and does not respect a year's worth of dialog by the Charter Review Committee and the hard work of our very first independent redistricting committee.

On the content side, a most concerning aspect of the mapping proposal is that Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River would be enshrined in the County Charter as a hard North/South District boundary. The present consequence would remove the Whitaker area from the North District and add it to the South District, thus "packing" more liberal leaning voters into the South District and making the North District easier for conservatives to win. Future consequences are unknown, but could easily require a public vote to amend the Charter in order to meet other requirements of redistricting—a needless, time-consuming and confusing consequence.

The mapping proposal also retains names for the district, rather than numbers, as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Providing names for different districts creates confusion, since Eugene must be included in most of the districts in order to fulfill the requirement for equal representation. Numbers reinforce the idea that the Commissioner represents everyone in his or her district, regardless of whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area. You can look at the East Lane map, which wraps north and south of the central districts and includes City residents, to see how silly this is.

We urge you to keep faith with the process you initiated, consider only the Charter Review Committee Recommendations, and invite Mr. Long to participate in the next iteration of the Charter Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Linda Davies

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ॐ

From: [Fredricka Weishahn](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for meeting date 06/25/2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 10:05:42 AM
Attachments: [Testimony.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony, attached.

Fredricka Weishahn
Eugene, OR

June 23, 2024

Commissioner and Chairperson Laurie Trieger and
Commissioners Buch, Farr, Ceniga, and Loveall
Lane Public Service Building
125 East 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Chair Trieger and Commissioners:

I would like to express my gratitude to you, the Commissioners, your competent staff, and the members of the previous Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) for the many hours spent in meetings and making and reviewing maps after our 2020 Census. I would also like to thank the Charter Review Committee (CRC) for their careful review and suggestions for revising our Charter.

I favor the amendments and their placement on the ballot as proposed by the Charter Review Committee. If the voters approve of the changes, we will benefit from the experience and suggestions from the previous IRC when creating future committees. The voters' approval would also validate the importance of including the public in a process that should be transparent and independent of any political control.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Weishahn".

Fredricka Weishahn
495 W. 27th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405

From: [Lynxx64](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 8:06:14 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Mr. Stan Long. My opposition to Long's proposals are made on both a process and content basis.

On the process side, these proposals from one person are coming from outside the Charter Review Committee process and are being treated with equal weight as the Committee's recommendations, rather than as a public comment on the Charter Review Committee recommendation. Mr. Long had ample opportunity to present this package to the Committee but chose not to do so. So these last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee. Also, making a mapping adjustment now is not transparent and does not respect a year's worth of dialog by the Charter Review Committee and the hard work of our very first independent redistricting committee.

On the content side, a most concerning aspect of the mapping proposal is that Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River would be enshrined in the County Charter as a hard North/South District boundary. The present consequence would remove the Whitaker area from the North District and add it to the South District, thus "packing" more liberal leaning voters into the South District and making the North District easier for conservatives to win. Future consequences are unknown, but could easily require a public vote to amend the Charter in order to meet other requirements of redistricting—a needless, time-consuming and confusing consequence.

The mapping proposal also retains names for the district, rather than numbers, as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Providing names for different districts creates confusion, since Eugene must be included in most of the districts in order to fulfill the requirement for equal representation. Numbers reinforce the idea that the Commissioner represents everyone in his or her district, regardless of whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area. You can look at the East Lane map, which wraps north and south of the central districts and includes City residents, to see how silly this is.

I urge you to keep faith with the process you initiated, consider only the Charter Review Committee Recommendations, and invite Mr. Long to participate in the next iteration of the Charter Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Lynn Alexander

790 Park Ave

Eugene, OR 97404

“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

~Andre Gide

From: [Joseph Kittleson](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 7:51:38 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to support the proposals of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose any proposals offered outside of that process including those offered by Mr. Stan Long.

We live in a time when the public's trust in the institutions that govern our lives as citizens is under constant assault. These attacks have so permeated our national dialogue that they are in danger of becoming the new normal which should alarm all citizens no matter where they sit on the political spectrum. It should particularly alarm those like yourselves who have made the sacrifices necessary to enter elected public service in a democracy. In order for a democracy to function it must listen to a broad base of its citizens views and take those offered through transparent processes such as the Charter Review Committee rather than the loudest voices such as Mr. Long. The two are NOT morally equivalent.

You are the stewards for the health of our local democracy. Please take a moment to consider what you have done by allowing Mr. Long's proposal to have the same weight as the Charter Review Committee. If you adopt the approach of giving equal weight to the view of a vocal minority or individual rather than supporting processes that bring in a diverse set of our citizens views you are joining the attack on the foundation of our democracy. There should be no fast lane to a vote of the people for the vocal, wealthy or well connected. This is particularly true for something as consequential as a proposal that changes who votes for one of your positions.

Do the right thing.

Regards,

Joseph Kittleson
977 Elkay Drive

From: [Michele O'leary](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public comment for mapping proposal
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 7:37:50 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board:

We are writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Mr. Stan Long. Our opposition to Long's proposals are made on both a process and content basis.

On the process side, these proposals from one person are coming from outside the Charter Review Committee process and are being treated with equal weight as the Committee's recommendations, rather than as a public comment on the Charter Review Committee recommendation. Mr. Long had ample opportunity to present this package to the Committee but chose not to do so. So these last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee. Also, making a mapping adjustment now is not transparent and does not respect a year's worth of dialog by the Charter Review Committee and the hard work of our very first independent redistricting committee.

On the content side, a most concerning aspect of the mapping proposal is that Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River would be enshrined in the County Charter as a hard North/South District boundary. The present consequence would remove the Whitaker area from the North District and add it to the South District, thus "packing" more liberal leaning voters into the South District and making the North District easier for conservatives to win. Future consequences are unknown, but could easily require a public vote to amend the Charter in order to meet other requirements of redistricting—a needless, time-consuming and confusing consequence.

The mapping proposal also retains names for the district, rather than numbers, as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Providing names for different districts creates confusion, since Eugene must be included in most of the districts in order to fulfill the requirement for equal representation. Numbers reinforce the idea that the Commissioner represents everyone in his or her district, regardless of whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area. You can look at the East Lane map, which wraps north and south of the central districts and includes City residents, to see how silly this is.

We urge you to keep faith with the process you initiated, consider only the Charter Review Committee Recommendations, and invite Mr. Long to participate in the next iteration of the

Charter Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Michele O'Leary and Kelly Nyls

1943 Debra Sue Ct., Eugene 97404

From: [Hillary Kittleson](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Sunday, June 23, 2024 6:32:01 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board:

We are writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Mr. Stan Long. Our opposition to Long's proposals are made on both a process and content basis.

On the process side, these proposals from one person are coming from outside the Charter Review Committee process and are being treated with equal weight as the Committee's recommendations, rather than as a public comment on the Charter Review Committee recommendation. Mr. Long had ample opportunity to present this package to the Committee but chose not to do so. So these last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee. Also, making a mapping adjustment now is not transparent and does not respect a year's worth of dialog by the Charter Review Committee and the hard work of our very first independent redistricting committee.

On the content side, a most concerning aspect of the mapping proposal is that Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River would be enshrined in the County Charter as a hard North/South District boundary. The present consequence would remove the Whitaker area from the North District and add it to the South District, thus "packing" more liberal leaning voters into the South District and making the North District easier for conservatives to win. Future consequences are unknown, but could easily require a public vote to amend the Charter in order to meet other requirements of redistricting—a needless, time-consuming and confusing consequence.

The mapping proposal also retains names for the district, rather than numbers, as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Providing names for different districts creates confusion, since Eugene must be included in most of the districts in order to fulfill the requirement for equal representation. Numbers reinforce the idea that the Commissioner represents everyone in his or her district, regardless of whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area. You can look at the East Lane map, which wraps north and south of the central districts and includes City residents, to see how silly this is.

We urge you to keep faith with the process you initiated, consider only the Charter Review Committee Recommendations, and invite Mr. Long to participate in the next iteration of the Charter Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Hillary and Charles Kittleson

995 Elkay Drive

Eugene, OR 97404

From: [Aubree Thompson](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024
Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024 8:36:36 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Board of Commissioners,

I'm writing to state my opposition to the Independent Redistricting Charter Amendment, which is based on the 2021 redistricting effort. This redistricting effort created a scenario where all five Lane County commissioners could be elected from Eugene. This raises concerns about representation and the diversity of perspectives across the county. Eugene, as a vibrant urban center, undoubtedly holds significant influence in county affairs due to its population size and economic importance. However, Lane County encompasses a diverse range of communities, from rural towns to suburban areas, each with unique needs and challenges. If all commissioners hail from Eugene, there's a risk that policies and decisions may predominantly reflect urban priorities, potentially neglecting the concerns of rural residents who face distinct issues such as agricultural preservation, infrastructure development, and access to services. Effective governance requires a balanced representation that considers the entirety of Lane County's demographic and geographic diversity, ensuring equitable decision-making that serves the interests of all residents, regardless of where they reside within the county.

I am also opposed to removing the district names, which I believe is an attempt to remove the unique identities of districts. And possibly... elect all commissioners from Eugene.

Sincerely,

Aubree Thompson, Mom & Small Business Owner, Thurston

From: [barbie walker](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#); Icbcccom@co.lane.or.us
Subject: Lane Co Charter Amendments
Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024 4:51:52 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Commissioners,

Thanks for taking my testimony. I oppose all the charter amendments proposed by the charter review committee. Let me give you some feedback on my reasons.

I oppose the independent redistricting committee charter amendment because the last redistricting process gerrymandered the River Road area of Eugene. 85% of the area is in a district with rural communities like Junction City, Veneta, and Florence and the other 15 % is in the North Eugene District as it should be. This division has had a negative impact on our community, making it more difficult for us to advocate for our needs and interests. The River Road area has a unique identity and shared concerns that are not well-represented by the current district lines. An independent redistricting committee that was based on the last process would likely make similar decisions, further marginalizing our communities. We need a redistricting process that takes into account the needs of all communities.

I strongly oppose removing the names of the commissioner districts. Commissioner districts are geographic areas that elect representatives to a governing body, such as a county commission. The names of these districts often reflect the history, culture, or geography of the area they represent. Removing these names would erase this identity and make it more difficult for residents to connect with their elected officials.

Furthermore, removing the names of commissioner districts would make it easier for politicians to gerrymander district lines. Gerrymandering is the practice of drawing district lines in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage. By removing the names of commissioner districts, politicians could more easily redraw district lines without having to worry about the historical or cultural significance of the areas they are changing. This would make it more difficult for voters to challenge gerrymandered districts in court, as they would no longer be able to argue that the district lines were drawn to dilute the voting power of a particular group of people.

I also oppose removing spending limits and Income tax caps. I also oppose the expansion of the charter review committee. We have a great home rule charter and this committee has proven they want to do more tinkering.

Thank you for your time,
Barbie Walker,
UO 01'
Owner Pint Pot Public House
River Road Neighborhood
541-514-4103

From: [Charlcie Kaylor](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024
Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024 12:09:35 PM
Attachments: [6-20-24 BCC Redistricting.docx.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL]

Attached is the document containing the League's comments regarding the charter amendment to establish an independent re-districting committee. Thank you for the opportunity.

--

Charlcie Kaylor, Vice President
vicepresident@lwvlc.org Office 541-343-7917





June 20, 2024

The Honorable Laurie Trieger and Commissioners Buch, Farr, Ceniga, and Loveall
Lane Public Service Building
125 East 8th Av.
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Chair Trieger and Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of Lane County (LWVLC) restates its support of the County Charter amendments recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Specifically, these include:

*Section 10.3.c Revise the titles and descriptions of Commissioner Districts. Following the May 7 Board discussion, the League acknowledges there should be some distinction in the description of the two Eugene area districts. The two districts should not be described identically.

*Sections 10.3.s and 10.3.e. Revise the redistricting process and establish an Independent Redistricting Committee in the Charter.

The League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Oregon, and the League of Women Voters of Lane County are committed to redistricting processes where the people, not the politicians, make redistricting decisions. Commission decisions on redistricting and Charter changes should, of course, be made with transparency and continuous opportunity for public engagement, particularly because those decisions occur just once a decade.

The League also supports the Charter Review Committee's recommendation to repeal Sections 33, 34, and 35. No purpose is served by retaining obsolete language in a modern charter.

Should the Commission move forward to refer these Charter amendments to the voters, the League will be ready to include unbiased information about the proposed changes through its voter service activities. We have followed and respect the thoughtful work of your Lane Charter Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Terry Parker, President

From: [Danny Noonan](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Meeting Comment: June 26, 2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:58:25 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Commissioners,

I am a resident of the Whiteaker neighborhood of Eugene. I strongly oppose attorney Stan Long's last-minute gerrymandered redistricting proposal, and the underhanded way in which it is being given equal consideration to the Charter Review Committee's well-considered redistricting proposal.

Long's proposal is clearly aimed at shoring-up a conservative majority on the Board of County Commissioners, and is fundamentally anti-democratic. Shame on the County Commissioners who support this proposal, and on their fly-by-night operation to ram this through. Please reconsider.

Regards,

--

Danny Noonan

noonan.dpj@gmail.com | +1 541 653 5795

From: [Ken Jones](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:56:19 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Commissioners:

My comment is in reference to the Agenda item for Wednesday's meeting that has to do with Referring to Election the 6 Amendments to the Home Rule Lane County Charter.

Coming as I have from Missouri a little over a year ago where gerrymandering has become an art form to turn the state very regressive, I am surprised to see that something of the same thing is looking like it is happening here. You have referred the drawing of districts to an IRC which looks good on the surface. Given how the members have been picked it is hard to see it as that independent from the Board but once you have done that, you should not go back to taking the process back. And certainly you should not give equal weight to a last minute idea that counters what the IRC was set up to do. That looks very suspicious and I am trying to figure who on the Board would even consider doing that.

I am absolutely not for sending all these changes to be voted on by the public as they are items that are hard to explain to the public in a clear way. Doing this is why you were elected. And especially with regard to the drawing of the district lines, it should be done by the IRC. The IRC should vote on the best way and that should be the end of it each time you decide it is time to update the boundaries.

Generally speaking I am not for expansion of development into the Urban Growth Boundary as it is not as good for achieving climate goals. Every decision you make now given the Emergency we are in should first consider "Is this as good as we can do to return our world back to a balanced climate with the least amount of GHG emissions?"

Thank you,

Ken Jones
1716 W 27th Pl
Eugene, OR

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Blackberry Pie Society](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Charter Review Public Comment for Meeting Date 6/26/24
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:42:59 AM
Attachments: [BPS.BOCPublicComment.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL]

Attached please find a submission for public comment for the June 26, 2024 Public Hearing of the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

Thank you,
Leslie Rubinstein
Chair, Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society



PO Box 22
Cottage Grove, OR
www.blackberrypiesociety.org
blackberrypie@gmail.com
541.521.2887

***Dedicated to promoting good
politics and great people in
East Lane County and beyond***

June 24, 2024

Charter Review Public Comment for Meeting Date 6/26/24

The Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society supports the recommendations of Lane County's Charter Review Committee for amending the Lane County Charter.

The Charter Review Committee held 19 public meetings – the videos of which are all available on the Lane County website – along with the agendas and minutes for every meeting. There was a public comment opportunity available at every meeting, providing transparency for the citizens of Lane County.

The seven-person Charter Review Committee also surveyed 610 people, interviewed seven Lane County staff members, and sent four reports to the Lane County Board of Commissioners over a ten-month period starting in July 2023.

We do not support a proposed charter amendment submitted last month from a single individual that attempts to make an end run around the Charter Review Committee's extensive public and transparent considerations leading to their recommendations to the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

From: [Martha or Peter Dragovich](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Meeting Comment for JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 11:37:33 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Members of the Board of County Commissioners:

We urge you adopt the Charter Review Committee (CRC) recommendations as presented in the agenda packet for the Wednesday, June 26, 2024 meeting of the Board of Commissioners (Item. 1 A) particularly the recommendation that voters consider elevating the Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) from the Lane County Code to the Lane County Charter and preserving the method for selecting members of that Committee, which was adopted via a public hearing and review process several years ago.

The Long Proposal should not be considered because it bypassed the public review process of the Charter Review Committee and it has not been reviewed by the IRC. The Long Proposal promotes redistricting that appears to lead to “packing” and could restrict membership on the IRC thereby discouraging diversity and youth participation. What past problems have been identified that justify such restrictions? None.

This proposal, coming from one person outside the Charter Review Committee process is being treated by the Board with equal weight as the CRC’s recommendations, rather than as a public comment on those recommendations. Mr. Long had ample opportunity to present this package to the Committee but chose not to do so.

As publicly elected Commissioners, please conduct yourselves in a manner that builds, not destroys, public trust in the people’s institution. Adopt the CRC recommendations and reject the seriously flawed Long Proposal.

Martha & Peter Dragovich
District 4 - Farr

From: [Chuck Areford](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Meeting Comment for June 26, 2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:47:12 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Board Members,

I am in support of the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and opposed to the last minute gerrymandering proposal by Mr. Stan Long.

I worked at Lane County Behavioral Health after 23 years and I am proud to say that myself and my co-workers worked hard to bring quality mental health services to the citizens of Lane County, often working and volunteering beyond our paid hours. I have called Lane County my home for the last 35 years.

Lane County suffers from a number of serious issues, including an epidemic of homelessness, rampant overdose deaths, the closing of the only hospital in Eugene, a budget shortfall resulting in proposed layoffs of county staff and air quality that ranks among the worst in the country. The middle portion of our beautiful McKenzie Valley was destroyed by wildfire, and our once idyllic summers are hot and dry, with an extended, catastrophic fire season that brings smokey and hazardous air to our homes.

We need county commissioners with the courage, integrity and motivation to address these issues. We don't need commissioners who are playing underhanded games in order to further their personal interests.

I wish to address Commissioner Farr in particular. I have met you a few times over the years and have been impressed with your seeming honesty, integrity and commitment to serving all the citizens of Lane County. If you support this devious backroom deal, it means this is all a facade and you are simply another self-serving politician interested in partisanship, lacking in integrity and unworthy of your office.

Sincerely,
Chuck Areford
2386 Stansby Way
Eugene, OR 97405
541-687-6978

From: [BasicAcct](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT LCBC JUNE 25 2024 MEETING - please relocate the Navigation Center
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:33:22 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Hello:

Please relocate/move the Navigation Center (old VA facility) that is currently situated on River Avenue, just a few blocks from North Eugene High School.

At a recent Santa Clara Organization meeting on community safety, Eugene Police Department presented statistics on crime in the Santa Clara/River Road area.

The hot spot? Yes - the area around the Navigation Center.

The EPD representative indicated the crime was related to the Navigation Center (if I understood correctly).

In the interest of community safety and security, and to provide a healthy environment for the citizens and school children in the area, please relocate the facility.

I think the Santa Clara area (residents and businesses) has suffered enough over the past few years - with exceptional crime, illegal encampments, environmental degradation - which can be linked to this facility.

I realize this is a NIMBY problem - but perhaps other areas of Eugene would like to share the responsibility of the Navigation Center - and host it in their neighborhood.

Citizen Karen

Employed taxpayer

Ward 7 voter

Property Owner

From: [Derek French](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: Derek - Proposed Lane County Charter 6/24/24
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:24:17 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Commissioners, I write to you with the utmost respect for the work you do for our community.

The proposed charter amendments are unnecessary and should be rejected. Our Home Rule Charter is a well-crafted document that has served Lane County well for many years. It does not need to be fixed. The amendments would make a number of changes to the charter, including a couple of short-sided ideas of removing the names of the commissioner districts and creating a fake independent redistricting committee.

Again, at this time, I would not recommend any of these charter amendments to the voters. If the county has other amendments, you will likely hear from me on whether or not they are worthy of being added to our charter.

Thanks for your time,

Derek French
Springfield
541-729-7184

From: [Carolyn Partridge](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public meeting comment for June 26
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:15:19 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Commissioners,

I am writing about amendments to the County Charter proposed by Stan Long. We have a Charter Review Committee whose task is to provide recommendations to the Board for Charter amendments. This is a good process and I think we should honor it.

Weighing amendments that bypass the established process and come from outside individuals can cause suspicion of skulduggery. Governments should operate as transparently as possible

Sincerely,

Carolyn Partridge

Lane County Resident

From: [Al Johnson](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Charter Review Public Comment for Meeting Date 6/26/2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:53:11 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Via email to publiccomment@lanecountyor.gov

**Re: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE
6/26/2024**

Testimony of Al Johnson, 2162 Lathen Way, Eugene 97408

Please do not refer the amendments proposed by Mr. Long unless and until they have been thoroughly vetted by the charter review committee and until the general public has had a full and fair opportunity to weigh in.

Like Mr. Long's attorney, I believe that "citizens' confidence in their government and political institutions is strengthened by government structures that advance both the appearance and the reality of fairness."

Like Mr. Long's attorney, I have spent over 50 years in and around Oregon state and local government. Unlike him, however, I consider a proposal lobbed over the fence into the final stage of a public process to have neither the appearance or the reality of fairness.

Are they in fact as fair and equitable as represented? Given how and when they have been presented, and based on a limited review with my limited expertise, I have to doubt it. So should you and so should the charter revision committee until you and they are convinced otherwise by full disclosure of how and by whom these proposals were developed and by an informed understanding of their potential consequences.

There are elements of the proposals that may have merit and with which I agree on a first reading. There are others which smack of classic gerrymandering tactics of “packing,” “cracking” and other ways of gaming the system as discussed in the following Wikipedia discussion under “Gerrymandering”:

“Tactics

“Gerrymandering's primary goals are to maximize the effect of supporters' votes and minimize the effect of opponents' votes. A partisan gerrymander's main purpose is to influence not only the districting statute but the entire corpus of legislative decisions enacted in its path.’

“These can be accomplished in a number of ways:

““Cracking” involves spreading voters of a particular type among many districts in order to deny them a sufficiently large voting bloc in any particular district. Political parties in charge of redrawing district lines may create more “cracked” districts as a means of retaining, and possibly even expanding, their legislative power. By “cracking” districts, a political party can maintain, or gain, legislative control by ensuring that the opposing party's voters are not the majority in specific districts. For example, the voters in an urban area can be split among several districts in each of which the majority of voters are suburban, on the presumption that the two groups would vote differently, and the suburban voters would be far more likely to get their way in the elections.”

““Packing” is concentrating many voters of one type into a single electoral district to reduce their influence in other districts. In some cases, this may be done to obtain representation for a community of common interest (such as to create a majority-minority district), rather than to dilute that interest over several districts to a point of ineffectiveness (and, when minority groups are involved, to avoid lawsuits charging racial discrimination). When the party

controlling the districting process has a statewide majority, packing is usually not necessary to attain partisan advantage; the minority party can generally be "cracked" everywhere. Packing is therefore more likely to be used for partisan advantage when the party controlling the districting process has a statewide minority, because by forfeiting a few districts packed with the opposition, cracking can be used in forming the remaining ones."

"'Hijacking' redraws two districts in such a way as to force two incumbents to run against each other in one district, ensuring that one of them will be eliminated.

"Kidnapping" moves an incumbent's home address into another district. Reelection can become more difficult when the incumbent no longer resides in the district or faces reelection in a new district with a new voter base. This is often employed against politicians who represent multiple urban areas: larger cities are removed from the district to make it more rural."

"These tactics are typically combined in some form, creating a few 'forfeit' seats for packed voters of one type in order to secure more seats and greater representation for voters of another type. This results in candidates of one party (the one responsible for the gerrymandering) winning by small majorities in most of the districts, and another party winning by a large majority in only a few. Any party that endeavors to make a district more favorable to voting for it based on the physical boundary is gerrymandering."

In proposing specific substantive criteria for forming districts, the proposed amendments appear to have the to entrench rather than alleviate polarization, entitlement, and parochialism in the Eugene community. Those criteria deserve close review before they are baked into our charter.

In sum, if you refer the Long proposals at all, please refer them to the charter committee for its review and recommendation based on the kind of analysis and public participation that is warranted by such a consequential amendment to our community's constitution.

From: [Debra Gwartney](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Letter to Board
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:39:52 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Mr. Stan Long. My opposition to Long's proposals are made on both a process and content basis.

On the process side, these proposals from one person are coming from outside the Charter Review Committee process and are being treated with equal weight as the Committee's recommendations, rather than as a public comment on the Charter Review Committee recommendation. Mr. Long had ample opportunity to present this package to the Committee but chose not to do so. So these last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee. Also, making a mapping adjustment now is not transparent and does not respect a year's worth of dialog by the Charter Review Committee and the hard work of our very first independent redistricting committee.

On the content side, a most concerning aspect of the mapping proposal is that Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River would be enshrined in the County Charter as a hard North/South District boundary. The present consequence would remove the Whitaker area from the North District and add it to the South District, thus "packing" more liberal leaning voters into the South District and making the North District easier for conservatives to win. Future consequences are unknown, but could easily require a public vote to amend the Charter in order to meet other requirements of redistricting—a needless, time-consuming and confusing consequence.

The mapping proposal also retains names for the district, rather than numbers, as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Providing names for different districts creates confusion, since

Eugene must be included in most of the districts in order to fulfill the requirement for equal representation. Numbers reinforce the idea that the Commissioner represents everyone in his or her district, regardless of whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area. You can look at the East Lane map, which wraps north and south of the central districts and includes City residents, to see how silly this is.

I urge you to keep faith with the process you initiated, consider only the Charter Review Committee Recommendations, and invite Mr. Long to participate in the next iteration of the Charter Review Committee.

Debra Gwartney
1895 Riverwood Dr
Eugene, OR
Sent from my iPad

From: [Cary Thompson](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Meeting Comment for June 26, 2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:29:40 AM

[EXTERNAL]

To Members of the Board:

I am writing to you to support the recommendations made by the Charter Review Committee for determining voting districts in Lane County. I support and respect their year-long process of careful considerations as our first independent review committee.

In my opinion, the proposals made recently by attorney Stan Long should be posted as public comment to the Review Committee and not presented as an independent portion of your Lane County Board June 2024 decision. Last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee.

Please be sure to follow set protocol for a balanced, equitable democratic process.

Thank you for your work.
Cary Thompson

From: [Joan Kleban](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Meeting Comment for June 26, 2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:23:24 AM

[EXTERNAL]

To Members of the Board:

I am writing today in support of the recommendations made by the Charter Review Committee for determining voting districts in Lane County. I support and respect their year-long process of careful considerations as our first independent review committee.

In my opinion, the proposals made recently by attorney Stan Long should be posted as public comment to the Review Committee and not presented as an independent portion of your Lane County Board June 2024 decision. Last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee.

Please be sure to follow set protocol for a balanced, equitable democratic process.

Thank you for your work.

Joan Kleban
Eugene Voter
since 1977

From: [Dan Bryant](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: Charter Review Public comment for 6/26/24
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:57:27 AM

[EXTERNAL]

County Commissioners,

For the record, I reside at 1280 Butte Lane, Eugene, and write today out of deep concern about the importance of good public process.

I call to your attention the testimony submitted by George Grier, a member of the 2021 Independent Redistricting Committee. In particular, I note his conclusion regarding the proposal of Mr. Long to change the redistricting process.

Finally, I would like to express my frustration that you are willing to give equal weight to a last-minute proposal by an individual who has chosen to go outside the process that you selected for the Charter Review Committee. It is disheartening that you are willing to so easily devalue all of the volunteer effort and expertise provided by this committee.

I defer to Mr. Grier on the merits of Mr. Long's proposal as he is much more an expert than I on the topic. But I know him well and trust him explicitly. My greatest concern is precisely his concluding comment. To adopt the proposal of a single person who completely and likely intentionally bypassed the established process of the Charter Review Committee lends to the suspicion of the kind of backroom deal that gives politicians a bad name.

While you are not obligated to follow all the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee, I urge you for the sake of good governance to take their counsel seriously and to not wholly bypass their work by accepting the unvetted recommendation of a single individual.

Thank you,

Dan Bryant

From: [R.B. Garden](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FOR JUNE 26, 2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:39:32 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members of the Board:

I'm writing to support the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee and to oppose the proposals made by Mr. Stan Long. My opposition to Long's proposals are made on both a process and content basis.

On the process side, these proposals from one person are coming from outside the Charter Review Committee process and are being treated with equal weight as the Committee's recommendations, rather than as a public comment on the Charter Review Committee recommendation. Mr. Long had ample opportunity to present this package to the Committee but chose not to do so. So these last-minute proposals, involving serious amendments to the Charter, and requiring a vote of the people to change, have not been vetted with the same rigor as those of the Charter Review Committee. Also, making a mapping adjustment now is not transparent and does not respect a year's worth of dialog by the Charter Review Committee and the hard work of our very first independent redistricting committee.

On the content side, a most concerning aspect of the mapping proposal is that Roosevelt Boulevard and the Willamette River would be enshrined in the County Charter as a hard North/South District boundary. The present consequence would remove the Whitaker area from the North District and add it to the South District, thus "packing" more liberal leaning voters into the South District and making the North District easier for conservatives to win. Future consequences are unknown, but could easily require a public vote to amend the Charter in order to meet other requirements of redistricting—a needless, time-consuming and confusing consequence.

The mapping proposal also retains names for the district, rather than numbers, as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Providing names for different districts creates confusion, since Eugene must be included in most of

the districts in order to fulfill the requirement for equal representation. Numbers reinforce the idea that the Commissioner represents everyone in his or her district, regardless of whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area. You can look at the East Lane map, which wraps north and south of the central districts and includes City residents, to see how silly this is.

I urge you to keep faith with the process you initiated, consider only the Charter Review Committee Recommendations, and invite Mr. Long to participate in the next iteration of the Charter Review Committee.

Respectfully,

Rouanna Garden

1860 F St.

Springfield, OR 97477

From: [Joanie](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners; Joanie](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:38:18 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Lane County Board of Commissioners,

My husband, Frank, and I recently bought a house in the Amazon Neighborhood in South Eugene. I am a retired nurse and my husband is still working. I love this area; few places offer the unique combination of natural beauty, vibrant community, and excellent educational opportunities quite like South Eugene. This neighborhood offers an exceptional quality of life with its proximity to outdoor recreation, diverse local businesses, and top-notch schools.

I believe that it is crucial to keep the names of Lane County commissioner districts. Removing the names would lead to confusion and make it more challenging for residents to connect with their local representatives. We in South Eugene have a distinct identity; why remove our name and, with it, take away from our identity?

Sincerely,

Joan M. Medina
Amazon Neighborhood, Eugene

From: [ChrisAnn Mead](#)
To: [Lane County Public Comment](#)
Cc: [*LC Board of County Commissioners](#)
Subject: CHARTER REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 6/26/2024.
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 8:35:27 AM

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I oppose removing the names of the commissioner districts because it would make it more difficult for residents to participate in the political process.

When residents know the names of their commissioner districts, they can more easily find out who their elected officials are and how to contact them.

They can also more easily track the issues being discussed in their districts and attend meetings where decisions are being made. Removing the names of commissioner districts would make it more difficult for residents to stay informed and involved in their local government.

For all of these reasons, I strongly oppose removing the names of commissioner districts. This would be a harmful change that would make it more difficult for residents to participate in the political process.

ChrisAnn Mead
Bethel neighborhood, Eugene

Sent from my iPhone