**From:** ferniesdad
**To:** Lane County Public Comment
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING DATE 08/16/2024
**Date:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:59:41 PM

[EXTERNAL ]

Please include the following comments for the July 16, 2024 BOCC meeting

Firstly, I oppose the changes to Commissioners district boundaries as proposed. The Independent Redistricting Committee did an admirable job over months of work to establish the new boundaries and the changes proposed are an improper use of County resources and a rejection of the will of the citizens who overwhelmingly supported the Independent Committee. A latecoming single individual should not be allowed to initiate this type of change and the Commission is wrong to consider this. The next redistricting should only be done following the next census, and should be done in the using the same technical and transparent methods as was done by the Independent Committee,

Secondly, on a different subject, the presentation by LRAPA at the meeting should include their acknowledgement of their failure to protect County residents near the Baxter Wood Treatment plant, and an understanding that this negligence should never be repeated. Continuous airborne toxin releases were known about for decades by LRAPA, Baxter management, Lane County and City of Eugene. Yet, nothing was done to protect these residents' health or to insulate them from loss of value to their homes. A new Superfund site here mainly has LRAPA to blame. What other airborne toxins are LRAPA allowing to be emitted over our County? What other people will suffer health issues and loss of value for their homes? This serious and criminal lack of care for these residents should result in the shuttering of LRAPA and the subsequent transfer of their oversight and duties to Oregon DEQ.

thank you

Mike Koivula
Springfield

**From:** Joy Marshall
**To:** Lane County Public Comment
**Subject:** Charter Review Concern
**Date:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:42:27 PM

[EXTERNAL ]

Hello, County Commissioners,
Thank you for your service, and for reading this email.

I have been following the recent discussion about the Charter Review. I also attended the public hearings on the issue on June 26 and July 9.
I'm not sure the public's concerns were entirely understood, because I heard several of you make comments to the effect that you don't understand
why people are so upset. Some of you said that by moving forward with the proposals submitted by Mr. Stan Long, you are simply listening to his public input.

The suggestions by Mr. Long may or may not be good ones, and I don't think most of them merit creating a divisive, polarizing conflict. However, there is one that is so disturbing, that it needs to be singled out - the proposal to redo the County electoral maps.

This is NOT the charge of the Charter review committee. Re-doing the maps is a very serious process, as we all see from the contentious fights around the nation,
some even going to the US Supreme Court. Lane County has struggled for years to create a fair process. After the 2020 census, according to law, we reviewed our electoral district boundaries. The Commissioners created our citizen committee, who took their job very seriously. Independent and responsible local leaders like Jim Torrey, Linda Hamilton, and Morgan Monro served on this committee. They reached out to thousands of local citizens, and had 600 people give input. The maps were approved by the County Commission.

This was a serious, responsible process. If you would like to make improvements to this process, that is a legitimate discussion; please give it its due, with a robust, transparent public discussion. However, if you try to undo those maps now, by sending it to a vote, it is much worse than just a slight to the 15-member committee. It is a slight to the 600 people who gave input.
It tells the public that after a difficult democratic process, new electeds can come in and undo the public input. Particularly given the tense national times, that would be a divisive action to take.

I do not mean to accuse any of you of deliberately circumventing the democratically created maps. But this would be the result of your acting on that suggestion.
That's why I urge you to remove changing the electoral boundary maps of the County Commission districts off the table. **That is not a legitimate issue for the Charter Review work.**

Thank you for your serious consideration. I would appreciate hearing a response.

Sincerely,
Joy Marshall
Eugene

541-912-2921

**From:** hopsbran@aol.com
**To:** Lane County Public Comment
**Subject:** Public comment re Charter review amendment
**Date:** Monday, July 8, 2024 6:44:48 PM

[EXTERNAL ]

From: Robert Emmons
To: Lane County Board of Commissioners
Subject: Charter Review Public Comment for 7/9/24 meeting
Date: 7/8/24

Chair Trieger and Lane County Board of Commissioners:

Every ten years Lane County's charter requires that a committee review the five commissioner district boundaries to assure that they are in accord with data from the latest census, and, if they are not, propose changes to the BCC. The latest census was in 2020, and in 2021, with extensive time, effort and expenditure, the Charter Review Committee responded to the census results with a redistricting proposal that was accepted by the Board of Commissioners.

Regardless, this hearing has been instigated by three commissioners on the present board intent on elevating a proposal in a letter from Stan Long, a local attorney, that would rename all the districts, create a new redistricting review committee with severe restrictions for eligibility, and change the boundaries of the North Eugene and East Lane Districts. No justification has been offered for treating Mr. Long's proposals as if they were the conclusions of a review committee and he its spokesman or for holding a hearing on the matter mid-decennial, just three years after an appointed committee had responded to information from the census in 2020. In fact Long was not appointed to that committee, and the appropriate time for consideration of the substantial and politically motivated changes to the districts he has proposed is during the public comment period allotted to any citizen by the board or by becoming an appointed member of the review committee after the 2030 census.

In his letter Mr. Long claims to be motivated by fairness and transparency. But this is disingenuous. The apparent intent of his letter is to serve as a pretext for three commissioners to maintain not only a 3-2 majority but to achieve a 4-1 super majority of conservative political decisions by weakening or eliminating liberal leaning support in two districts. This is deceit, not fairness and transparency.

Commissioners Cenaga, Farr and Loveall have heard loudly and clearly from a host of Lane County citizens who are onto their game and not willing to remain silent in the face of an end-run around the Charter's unequivocal requirement to initiate a review of the population densities of each district and boundaries "not less than every 10 years." The members of this board, as well as members of future boards, must adhere to the provisions of its own charter, instead of trying to erode its integrity as a document meant to ensure democratic representation.

Thank you.
Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County

July 9, 2024

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene OR 97401

RE: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Chair Trieger and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the amendments to the Lane County Charter, including the deletion of obsolete sections, proposed by the county's Charter Review Committee.

The reasons for my support of the Committees proposal include my belief that both amending the charter and redistricting should be a process in which county residents rather than elected politicians and their cronies make those decisions. Redistricting and amending the Charter should be done with transparency and should provide ample opportunity for public participation. I believe the record shows that the Charter Review Committee provided a transparent process with ample opportunity for public participation.

After more than a year of meetings and public process by the Charter Review Committee, it was disheartening to see that with no more than enthusiastic head nods from three commissioners, staff was directed to elevate a separate proposal from an influential local attorney, Stanton Long, as if it had come from the County itself. Commissioners must know Mr. Longs' proposal includes at least one significant legal problem, and have admitted there is legal memo from County Counsel regarding that proposal. And, while Mr. Long proposes new parameters for new district boundaries to take effect prior to the end of the 10-year decennial period, he appears to shy away from showing the citizens of Lane County what his idea looks like as he provides no draft map, or maps.

At the June 26 public hearing, a local attorney and member of the Charter Review Committee who does not support the Committee's recommendation, and who appeared to support Mr. Long's proposal, stated his belief that pursuing any charter amendments at all to refer to the voters in November was not only unnecessary but also a waster of taxpayer money. I posit that Mr. Long's proposal is equally, if not more unnecessary and at least as large a waste of taxpayer money. For example, his proposal requires significant assistance from the County Clerk who currently has no such associated responsibilities and no extra time to take on the process for picking committee members suggested by Mr. Long.

Legally speaking, it appears a mid-decennial redistricting, proposed by Mr. Long, would conflict with the requirement for a once every ten-year redistricting review in conjunction with the US census pursuant to state law, which does apply to this issue. Mr. Long, an attorney, and the attorney representing him certainly knew this when they submitted their proposal. Notably, Mr. Long has not articulated a problem that needs to be solved, leaving us to speculate that the motive might be political gerrymandering.

The citizens of Lane County deserve better than a special interest approach to Charter amendments and redistricting.

Thank you.

Lauri Segel
1210 E. 29th Place
Eugene 97403