

Do You “VALUE” DEMOCRACY OF, BY, and FOR the PEOPLE?

Let's advocate for what WE want in our Columbus City Charter !

- As of June 23, an appointed Charter Review Commission has held 10 meetings to propose changes to the Columbus City Charter with only *ONE* public hearing!
- So far, the committee has only adopted recommendations from city officials. *In a democracy, the people's ideas for changes to their city charter should be given the highest priority.*
- Some proposed charter changes concern the rights of initiative and referendum, which have been part of our Ohio constitution since 1912 and our Columbus City Charter since 1914.
- These important rights for true democracy *OF, BY, and FOR* the people were won to empower Ohioans to be co-legislators, as a check and balance when elected officials are not acting in the public's interest.
- Many grassroots organizations with good ideas to improve Columbus have not made it to the ballot – and voters have lost the opportunity to vote on them – due to overly burdensome provisions in our city charter that are unique to Columbus.
- Here are some recommended changes to the Columbus city charter that will strengthen our rights of initiative and referendum. The first two are especially important in our time of COVID.

1

Remove the one-year time limit for initiative and referendum in Columbus. No other city in Ohio, nor the state, has such a restriction on initiative and referendum.

2

Grant 10 additional days to gather more signatures, as does the Ohio Constitution, to remedy a signature deficit once petitions are submitted.

3

Limit to 10 days the time for the City Attorney's office to determine whether a submitted petition meets the single subject and form requirements . Currently, there is no time limit and this cuts into petitioning time.

- Recommend other changes to our city charter to make Columbus more democratic and just. All recommendations adopted by the commission and approved by Columbus City Council will appear on the November ballot.

WHAT WE CAN DO

What We Can Do



*Testify at the next Charter Review Commission
Public Hearing at City Hall on June 29
at 5:00 pm to recommend changes to our city
charter. You can also submit written testimony at
CRC2022@columbus.gov.*



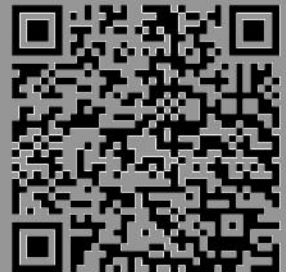
*Testify one last time when the commission
recommendations are presented to city council
during the week of July 11 (date to be
determined). Follow updates at
<https://www.columbus.gov/charterreview2022/>*



*Let friends, neighbors, and workmates know
about the charter review commission process and
the opportunity to testify.*



*You can research the Columbus
City Charter using the QR code
shown.*



**Thank you for helping Preserve and
Strengthen the Peoples' Democratic Rights of
Initiative and Referendum in Columbus!**