



CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

City of Vancouver 2024 Charter Review Committee

February 27, 2024



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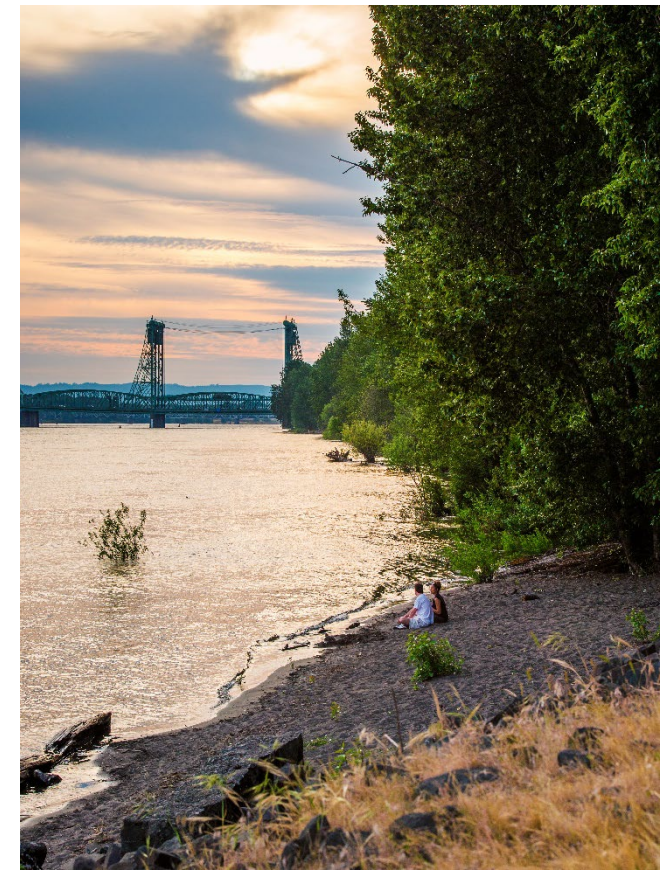
Agenda

- Welcome, Agenda, and Introductions
- Review of Charter Review Process & Next Steps
- Discussion: Committee Deliberation on Issues to Date
- Reflections from the City Manager
- Discussion: Subcommittee Report-Out
- Public Comment/Community Communications
- Next Steps and Conclusion



February Meeting Objectives

1. Discussion and deliberation of amendments
2. Invited Guest: City Manager
3. Subcommittee Report-outs



Active Proposal: Section 11.05

~~**Section 11.05 Contracts Beyond One Year:** No contract involving the payment of money shall be made for a period of more than five years unless approved by ordinance. (Amended by the vote of the people on November 5, 2019.)~~

Proposed Amendment: Delete Section 11.05 from the City Charter in its entirety.





Approval of Meeting Minutes



Invited Guest: Vancouver City Manager





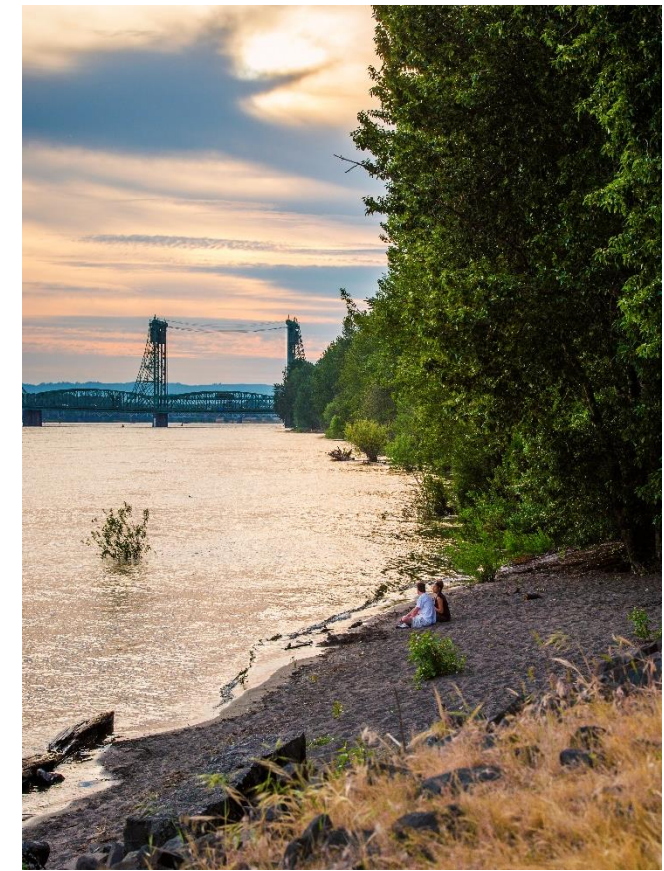
Topical Agenda

- My Background
- City Organization
- Council-Manager form of Government
 - Roles & responsibilities
 - Governing dynamics
- Compensation
- Q & A



Context & Qualifiers

- My Background
- State of the organization





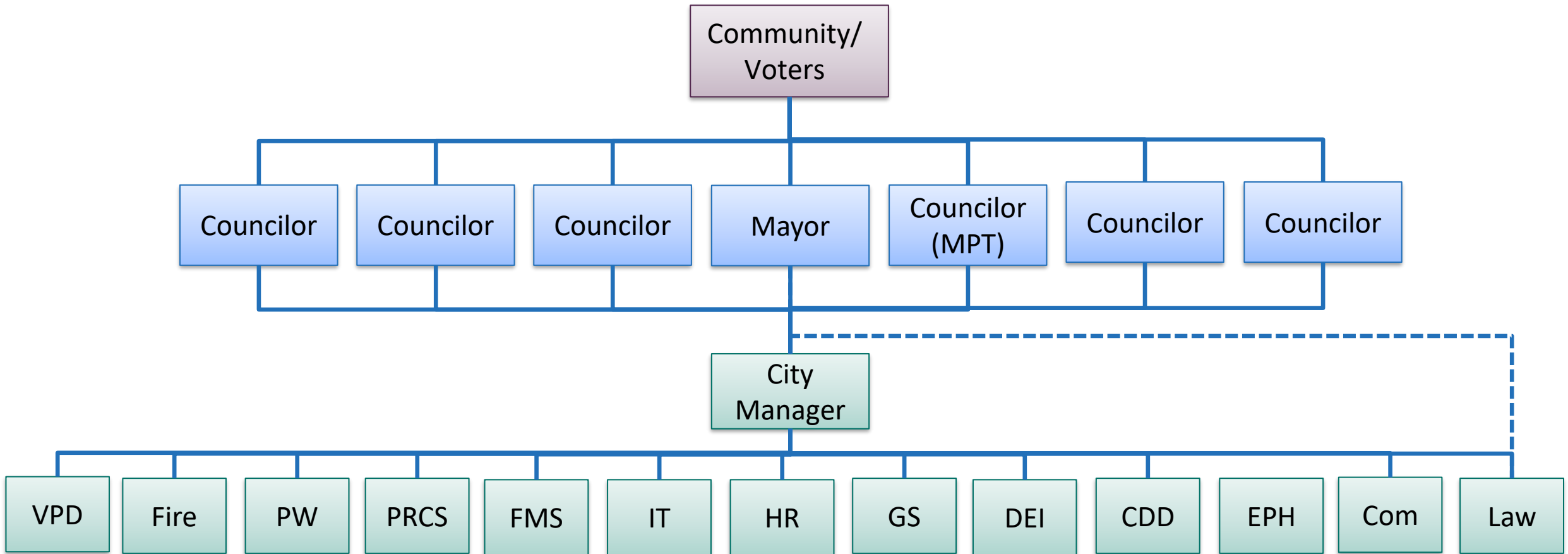
Council-Manager Form of Government

- Practical Considerations



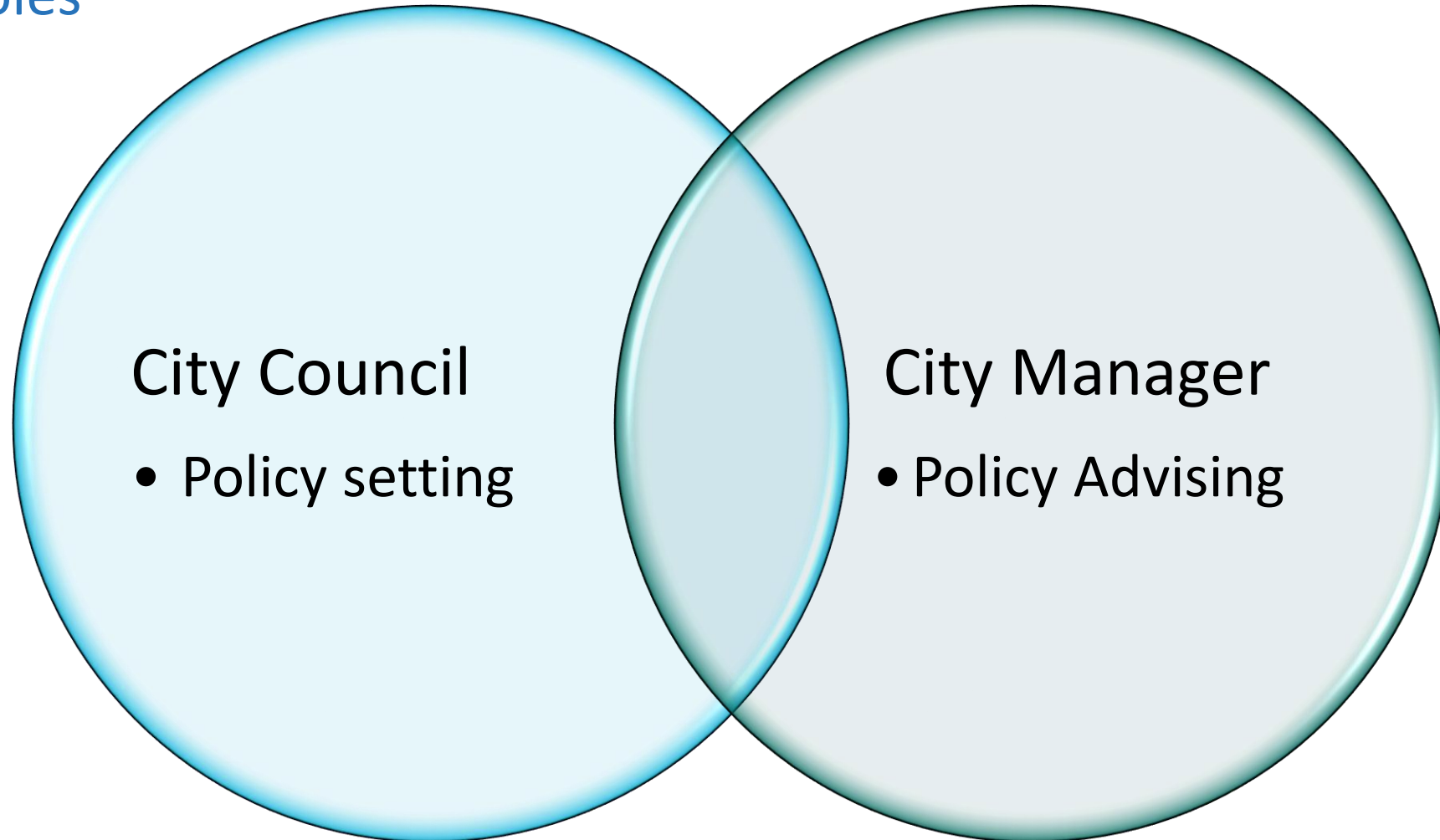
Council-Manager Form of Government

Structure



Council-Manager Form of Government

Policy Roles



Council-Manager Form of Government

Functional Roles

The Council

Mayor

- Ceremonial Head of the City
- No administrative duties

Mayor Pro Tem

- Serves as Mayor in Mayor's absence
- No administrative duties

City Council

- No administrative duties

All members of council have board & committee assignments with partner agencies.

City Manager

Serves as head of the administrative branch; responsible to the city council

- appoint or remove the city attorney, subject to the approval of the city council;
- appoint and remove all officers and employees of the city*



Council-Manager Form of Government

Functional Roles

City Council (incl. Mayor)

- Sets policy through ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations
- Appoints and removes the city manager
- Adopts a budget to support realizing policy; applies fiscal oversight and operational oversight
- Evaluates and appoints candidates to advisory boards & commissions

City Manager

- prepares and submits the biennial budget and is responsible for its administration upon adoption;
- keeps the city council advised on the financial condition and future needs;



Council-Manager Form of Government

Functional Roles (cont'd)

City Council

- Polices the behavior of its members
- All other powers of the city and the determination of all matters of policy whether enumerated in this charter or not, are vested in the city council.

City Manager

- performs such other duties as may be prescribed by charter or city council

“Council not to interfere”



Council-Manager Form of Government

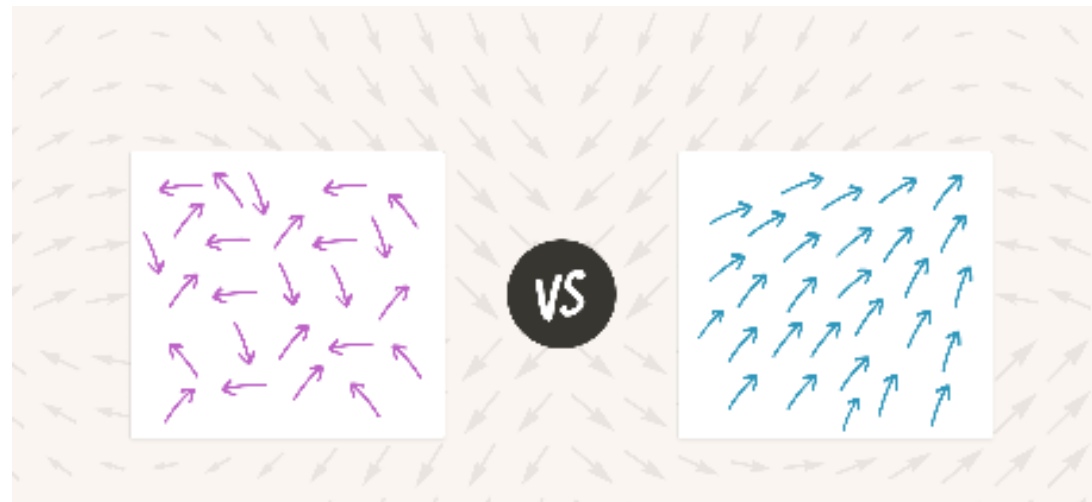
Practical Considerations - effectiveness

Alignment

- Within the City Council
- Between Council & Manager
- With community

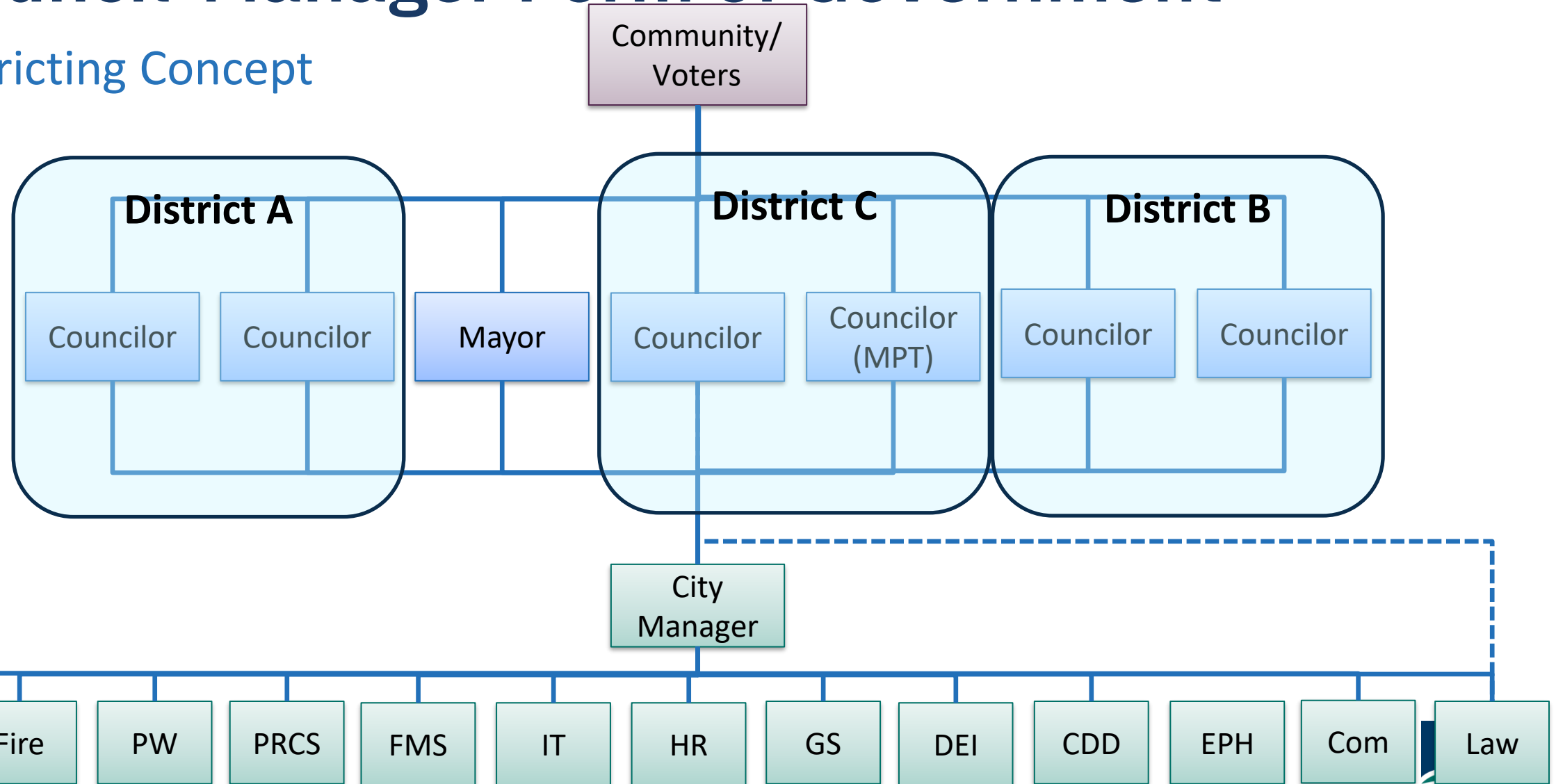
Cohesion

- Shared constituency
- Shared access to information
- Shared vision



Council-Manager Form of Government

Districting Concept



Council-Manager Form of Government

Districting Concept - considerations

Policy making

- Political bargaining
- “My constituents”
- Competition
- “Pork barrel politics”

Representation

- Begins to segregate electorate
- Narrows electoral opportunities
- No opportunity to establish a “majority minority” district
- Inevitable inequities - gerrymandering



Councilmember Responsibilities

Practical Considerations

Council Meetings

- 40 meetings/year
- ~5 hrs/meeting
- *Average annual meeting time: 200 hours*

Boards & Committees

- Varies by assignments
- Avg 4 meetings/month
- ~1.5 hrs/meeting
- *Average annual meeting time: 72 hours*

Community

Engagement/ meeting prep**

- Assume 2-3 hours per meeting hour
- *Average annual time: ~550-820 hours*

Total annual time commitment ~ 822-1,090 hours

~10% higher more for MPT, ~30-40% higher for Mayor

CMO provides general admin support and equitable access to subject matter expert support



Councilmember Compensation

Considerations

2024 Annual Salary*

- Mayor: \$37,956
- Mayor Pro Tem: \$33,000
- Councilmember: \$29,688

**all salaries set biennially by Salary Review Commission ordinance*

Other Benefits

- Health Insurance
- WA Pension System
- Travel & Training
- Community Events



Discussion: Subcommittee Report-out



Subcommittee Report-Out

Signatures for Petition

- **Problem:** The current signature requirements in the Charter limit accessibility for Vancouver community members collecting signatures for a petition.
- **Proposed Solution:** Update the Charter language to allow for electronic signature collection.



Subcommittee Report-Out

Mechanism for Obsolete Language

- **Problem:** There is out of date information in the Charter that has become obsolete.
- **Proposed Solution:** Include language in the Charter that allows City of Vancouver legal and communications staff to review the charter every five years. Include direction for the Charter Committee to review City Staff suggestions at the beginning of each Charter Review process.



Subcommittee Report-Out

Councilmember Pay

- **Problem:** Salary rate for Vancouver councilmembers creates barriers to running for council and can limit the time councilmembers can dedicate to their duties.
- **Proposed Solution:** Add language providing parameters for a base salary for councilmembers and expand the position to full-time.



Subcommittee Report-Out

Districting

- **Problem:** City Council lacks geographic diversity, and city wide representation creates barriers for representation in lower-income and historically underserved communities.
- **Proposed Solution:** Shift to district representation on City Council with four districted councilmembers, two at-large councilmembers, and a citywide mayor.



Districting Subcommittee Questions

- Who are the champions we can rely on for communication across the city (i.e., neighborhood associations, social media influencers, city staff (in regular communication) should the measure pass?
- What are the findings of other subcommittees that might be important for the districting subcommittee to consider? Is there overlap in our work with other subcommittees?
- How many districts does the full committee feel would be effective?
- Should the 2024 Charter Review Committee recommend creation of a districting commission to work on implementation?



Public Comment Instructions

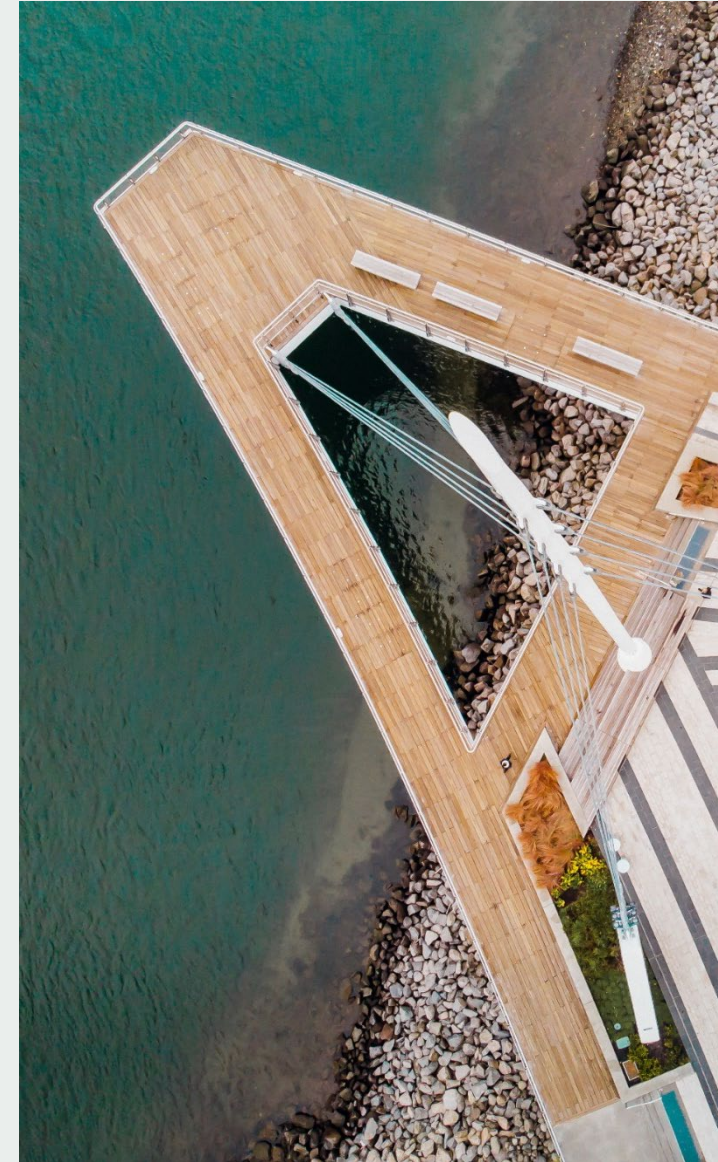
To verbally ask a question or make a comment:

- If you have joined by Zoom, click “Raise Hand.”
- If you have joined by phone, press *9 to raise your hand.
- If you have joined in-person, raise your hand.
- The facilitator will call on participants. If you are joining virtually, you will receive an “unmute” request. Please accept it. If you are commenting by phone dial *6 to unmute.
- Please provide your name and any affiliation.
- Attendees will be allocated up to three minutes for public comment depending on the number of commenters.
- **If we run out of time and you have not had a chance to speak, you can still provide written comments after the meeting.**



Next Steps

- Project team to send February Meeting reflections form to committee members
- Committee members to complete February Meeting reflections form
- Committee members to share feedback on proposed amendments with subcommittee leads



Upcoming Dates

- **March Charter Review Meeting** – *March 19, 5-7pm*
- **Interim update workshop** – *April 15, 5-6pm*
- **April Charter Review Meeting** – *April 23, 4-6pm*
- **May Charter Review Meeting** - *TBD*
- **Final Recommendations Workshop** – *May 20, 4-5 pm*
- **Public Hearing/Final Votes** – *June 3, 6:30 pm*



Thank You

