

Charter Revision Commission Questionnaire

August 4, 2009 Primary Election

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How Long: Three years
High School Degree from/year: Cass Technical H.S. – 1965
College Degree from/year: WSU, B.A. in Political Science – 1970
Post-graduate Degree from/year: U of D Mercy, Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude – 1982

Please list any previous public office to which you have been elected or appointed, beginning with the most recent. None

- 1. Explain, in 50 words or less, why you are seeking a seat on the charter revision commission.**

Even though the City Charter was revised in 1997, it is basically the Charter adopted in 1974. Circumstances have dramatically changed since then – the City is smaller and service delivery needs are greater. In addition, the language of the Charter is, in some instances, vague and in others, too pedantic.

- 2. Describe any professional, educational or civic experience that has prepared you to play a constructive role on the commission.**

I have management experience in the private sector and the public sector. I was the Product Coordinator for the former Difco Laboratories (now a division of Becton Dickinson) where I worked with marketing, technical and manufacturing management to assure product quality, safety and consistency. I was an Assistant Dean and Lecturer in Law at Wayne State University School of Law where my responsibilities included alumni relations, supportive services, placement and admissions. I also taught equal opportunity in employment. From 1995 to 2005, I was the Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs for the City of Detroit. In that capacity, I worked with many state and national

organizations on sustainable development, Brownfield's and urban environmental issues. My experience in City government gave me an opportunity to observe, and compare the policies and processes of the City of Detroit and other cities of similar size.

3. What special expertise (legal, financial, etc.) would you bring to the charter revision commission?

I am and have been a practicing attorney in the areas of commercial litigation, land acquisition, environmental planning and regulation for 20 years. I have drafted legislation in Brownfield Redevelopment, clean air and water, and land acquisition.

3.[sic] List any prominent individuals or organizations that have endorsed you, contributed to your campaign, or otherwise sponsored your candidacy.

I am still in the process of securing endorsements due to the abbreviated time resulting from the special election.

4. Which of the following best describes your approach to the charter revision process?

B. The charter revision commission should consider fundamental changes in the structure of city government, such as the way authority is apportioned between the mayor and the city council.

5. If you could change only three provisions of the existing charter, which three would you focus on?

- a) The balance of power between the mayor and city council;
- b) The method of selection for city council members; and
- c) The addition of an organic provision in the charter for administration of its purposes and remedies for breach of its purposes

6. Which of the following best describes your attitude toward the current rules for electing city council?

- B. Detroiters would be better served if most council members were elected by and accountable to single-member districts.

7. Do you support changes in the way the police chief and or the police commission is selected?

In my view, all provisions of the Charter should be reviewed during this process to allow for the adoption of revisions that will improve the operation of the City. The provisions regarding the Police Department and the Police Commission would be included in such review.

8. What changes would you support, if any, in the governance of the city's two employee pension funds?

As stated above, all provisions of the Charter would be subject to review. By way of example, if the governance of the pension funds does not meet with applicable standards of practice for public pension funds, those provisions would be ripe for revision.

9. Would you commit to participate in one or two public candidate forums sponsored by the Free Press?

Yes.