

Ken Coleman

Age: 41

Education: Wayne State University (working toward completion)

Felony Convictions: No

Campaign Website:

Campaign Contact Number: 313-212-1020

What do you consider to be your relevant experience that qualifies you to be a Charter Commissioner?

Nearly 8 years of City and State legislative experience (3 years of direct Charter-related experience). More than 6 years of journalism experience covering and writing about the City of Detroit government. Coordinated Detroit Public Schools' City Wide Student Council program and managed its Community and Governmental relations offices.

How do you feel about Detroit's current "strong mayor" system of government?

The form of government, itself, has provided an adequate opportunity for citizen participation. But it can be improved by moving government closer its residents. Charters provide the framework for government; however, they can't guarantee effective and efficient government. That said, I support a method of electing City Council members that better addresses the needs of residents. This can be realized by electing some of them by districts and others at-large.

How do you think we should change the City Charter to improve the Ethics and Accountability of our elected and appointed city officials?

Although our Charter clearly called for it 21 years earlier, the first Board of Ethics meeting wasn't held until 1995! The ethics ordinance wasn't passed until 2000. The Mayor and City Council should appoint Board of Ethics members from a vetted pool of candidates so that members don't have conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from complaint cases. The Board should also be required to submit its opinions to law enforcement agencies, if applicable.

Do you favor electing City Council by districts? If NO - Why? If YES -What kind of district structure do you foresee?

I support electing City Council by a district/at-large method. I also believe, however, that the Charter Commission should analyze and recommend to voters the best mixture and number of City Council members.

This information was submitted online by candidates or official designees and coordinated by Publius.org and The Detroit League of Women Voters. There were no fees involved. If you have any questions or are a candidate that would like to submit information, please contact **Publius.org** (313) 254-4754.

What should be the guiding principles under which Charter Commission should identify, deliberate, and address issues?

Community involvement: Open meetings in all neighborhoods. Not as many meetings downtown inside the People Mover loop.

Consensus: The Charter Commission should work as a unit and elect officers based on their ability to team build and not grandstand.

Collaboration: Seek to understand all Detroiters without regard to geography, ethnicity, gender, political ideology, etc.