

Teola P. Hunter

Age: 76

Education: Cass Technical HS-1949 University of Detroit (undergrad)-1958 Wayne State University (graduate)-1971

Felony Convictions: none

Campaign Website: pending

Campaign Contact Number: 313.331.9192

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

As a former state representative and the first woman Speaker Pro Tempore, I will ensure, enlist and inspire public input. I maintain a professional public servant posture and possess the temperament required to strike the necessary balance between built-in tensions. In addition, I am experienced at analyzing, interpreting and determining the validity of public policy standards.

As a former Detroit Public School educator for fourteen years I bring patience, rigorous reading, and distinctive communication skills to the table.

As the former Director for Health & Community Services for Wayne County I recognize the needs of the people impacted by various types of government systems and structures.

As the first female Wayne County Clerk (chief records keeper) I am committed to transparency, integrity and inclusiveness.

As Michigan's first African American chosen to run as the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, I have the skill set to take into account the realities of what a charter can actually accomplish. I know how to balance needed charter changes with state requirements. I have experience establishing broad frameworks while tightening up vague and ambiguous language. I know how to look out for and prioritize city assets and interest while considering state and regional impact.

Moreover, I bring an open mind to the process and can hit the ground running.

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

In this Detroit era of municipal reform, I am very much open to considering a different structure of government as practiced by other cities.

Detroit citizens have clearly articulated their desire to consider additional options to the mayor-council form of governance we currently operate under. For example, I support looking at the council-manager and the council-mayor systems.

What is important is that both the structure of city government and its divisions of power be appropriate and responsive to current and future social, demographic and economic realities.

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

I support a full review of the ethics code, ethics board language and oversight language.

I support empowering the ethics board in order that they have subpoena power and investigative powers. I also support additional participation in the selection and appointment of ethics board members. Currently the mayor appoints the members.

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

I am open to electing council by districts. Voters are calling for change in our at-large system and hear them.

We must look back historically when Detroit had council by districts and what its impact was. What worked and what did not.

We must be careful as to how districts are defined, the number of residents within each district, what the overwhelming social, educational and economic demographics will be, where a district is located and much more. Also, we have to modify old charter language and craft new guidelines that empowers city council and provides the necessary governance tools for establishing and enforcing accountability.

I support a 7 (districts) and 2 (at-large) structure.

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

The guiding principles of the Charter Commission should include transparency and a great deal of citizen input. We must have integrity, experience, knowledge and compassion. And we must practice due diligence in our research as we operate with patience, professionalism and respect.