

Patty Fedewa

Age: 40

Education: law degree, Detroit College of Law, 1994, Bachelor's degree, Michigan State University, 1991

Felony Convictions: none

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

First, I have been a labor attorney since 1994. I have extensive experience drafting documents and reaching compromises to solve problems. Second, since 2002, as a representative of Transportation Riders United, I have lobbied DDOT, City Council, and the Mayor's office to improve transit. I currently serve on the DDOT Advisory Commission. I have had to navigate our city government and actually use the charter to improve our transit system.

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

I support a "strong mayor" system of government with some changes. I would give city council the opportunity to "veto" most appointees within a timeframe of 30 days or so after appointment. I would require fewer departments so that a mayor can organize the government as he or she sees fit. For example, I do not see the value of requiring an Arts Department and would like the Mayor to have the option of creating relatively new positions such as "CFO".

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

We need practical removal procedures for misconduct of all elected and appointed city officials. These procedures should provide for substantial hearings and due process and require at least a two-third's vote of council to remove an official. The removal procedures need to be in place so that the needs of the City remain superior to those of our elected and appointed officials.

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

Yes, electing city council is crucial for increased accountability. Detroiters should have one city council member who is accountable specifically to their respective areas. Each Detroiters should have a council member that he or she can call with problems. It will also be easier for voters to know the record of his

or her council member. I favor 5-7 districts with the remaining at-large. Having 2-4 city-wide positions will still allow some balancing of interests.

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

First, each provision should have a specific, enforceable purpose. Much of the current charter is too vague to have meaning or is a restatement of state law that is mandatory regardless of whether it is in the charter. Second, the charter should be as self-contained as possible; it should not reference other documents unless absolutely necessary. Third, each provision should be reviewed to determine how it adds to city government's accountability and transparency.