

Jonathan C. Kinloch

Age: 40

Education: High School, Some college

Felony Convictions: No

Campaign Website: N/A

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

Since beginning as an intern to former city council president Erma L. Henderson in 1983, I have been a student of government. She required me to read and explain the 1973 city charter, as it related to the functions of our city government. She arranged for me to meet with city department heads, and even arranged for an internship in the ombudsman's office under the late Marie Farrell-Donaldson. An internship with former Wayne County Commission Chairman Art Carter, and my employment with former state senator Jack Faxon, allowed for me to understand how those two units of government connect to city government through their guiding documents, the county home rule charter and the state constitution. I have drafted policy as a member of the Detroit Board of Education and even two ballot measures, the 2007 school board subpoena power authorization and the reform school board debit advisory question. The creation of the office of inspector general within DPS, was a dream in which I researched, prepared and introduced the initial recommendation to the Detroit Board of Education which led to its eventual approval. Also, because of my matriculation through the school political lifelong learning, I have gained a wealth of knowledge and understanding in the legal and financial rules of engagement in municipal government. I understand the difference between a guiding document which establishes the rules and the policy or legislation, which carries it out. In the past, I have drafted charter language and/or have gone before the Detroit City Council to request certain charter amendments to be submitted to the voters of Detroit. I believe my service on the commission will allow for me to place some of those concerns and ideas on the table to be discussed and hopefully considered. Over the years, my service as a Commissioner, Detroit Library Commission, Board Member, Detroit Board of Education, Board Member, Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals and Commissioner, Wayne County Planning and Development Commission, has required me to understand the various functions of federal, state and county governments, and the limitations on home rule which may not be found in the Cities Home Rule Act, but may be found in other Michigan Compiled Laws and judicial case law.

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

The trial by fire undertaken by our city charter over the past seven years, heighten my concern in the need for more checks in our city government. The necessity to spell out with more clarity, the legislative duties of the city council and provide for more transparency, accountability and efficiency in the executive branch are now well founded. The "strong mayor" system of government as defined by the powers granted under this current charter, will have to change if the city council is to be elected from districts. What power remains with the mayor should be discussed and well thought out with the

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stakeholders of the city. Further, we must require ethics, to dovetail the decisions made by our cities public officials, to prevent us from ever returning to the depth we have sunk to twice in our cities history, in 1908 and 2008.

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

A revision to create a 7 member board of ethics (all residence of the city) responsible for recommending, overseeing compliance and prosecution of certain violations of the city charter wherein forfeiture of office is the penalty, the whistleblower and ethics ordinances. Comprised of: 2 current or retired judges nominated by the chief judge of the municipal court. 2 nominated by the state bar association and wolverine bar association (1 each respectively), one appointed by the mayor and city council each and 1 appointed jointly by the mayor and city council. With the staff and investigative arm of the board of ethics being an Office of the Inspector General appointed by the board to a 6 year term. Also the creation of a 5 person Purchasing and Procurement Council within the finance department. Members would be residence of the State of Michigan appointed by the board of ethics who are not employees, vendors of the city, county or state. Members could not be an officer, employee or vendor of a unit of government for 2 years prior to service on the council and with the city as an officer, employee or vendor for 4 years after service. The council through its staff (formerly the purchasing division) would be responsible for executing of the purchasing ordinance, issuance of bids and recommending the awarding of all city contracts to the city council. Any contract holds by city council members must be posted on the city of Detroit website with the reasons. Any hold on a contract beyond 14 days shall require a 2/3 roll call vote of member serving to continue. Also, providing for a non-interference provision for the mayor, city council or any other city official with a penalty of forfeiture of office for egregious and deliberate violations The charter commission should review the appointing authority for the corporation counsel. A corporation counsel should be either appointed by the city council solely (the more open and deliberative body) to be removed for cause by a 2/3 vote of members serving. Another option which could be considered, is for the mayor to appoint the corporation counsel from 3 nominees of the city council. Removal by the mayor for cause with the approval of the city council by a 2/3 vote of members serving.

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

I favor electing some members of the city council by districts, with 2 at-large members being the council president and president pro-tem. A part-time legislative body and reducing the number to 7 council members. Term limits of not more than 3 consecutive terms. Confirmation by city council in the selection of department heads and certain other mayoral appointments. City council in its rules should be required to have a decorum provision. This provision should include penalties from censure, financial sanctions to forfeiture of office for continuous egregious violations of such provision. Electing city council by districts will allow for the citizens to identify which elected city official would be most responsible for addressing the concerns of city services in their neighborhoods. Reducing the number

would require candidates to build coalitions of residents in nearby areas with similar challenges beyond the small radius of their home in order to get elected. Making the city council part-time with a limit on consecutive elections, will make being on the city council more about the urgency for accomplished service, then the tendency by some to serve because of a imaginary birthright. With the president and president pro-tem being the at-large members, this will allow for the electorate to decide on who presides over the city council in a more direct vote, and who sits in the seat of the mayor, if only for a season.

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

The charter commission must respond to the citizens cry for efficient, open and honest government. This cannot be done with a few amendments within the charter. A change in the balance of authority between the executive and legislative branches, has to be closely looked at when considering which form of government is best for Detroit in these times. If districts are created the office of mayor and city council's role will have to change. The charter will have to allow for the city council members to have a laser, well defined role in the general administrative supervision of city services, programs, planning and development matters within their elected districts. But at the foundation of any document drafted by the charter commission, must be the will of the citizens of Detroit. The people's will for what form of municipal government they want, must be obtained through many forums, public hearings, written and digital communications.