

Sarah Lile

Age: 62

Education: Wayne State University, 1970, BA, Political Science, University of Detroit Mercy Law School, 1982, JD cum laude

Felony Convictions: No

Campaign Website: sarahforchartercommission.com

Campaign Contact Number: 313-310-6014

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

I have experience in business, law, education and government. I worked in management for 10 years before attending law school. After law school I was a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Julian A. Cook. Following law school I was an Assistant Dean and lecturer in law at Wayne State University Law School. Later I became a partner in the firm of Cooper, Fink and Zausmer where I practiced municipal law, land acquisition and environmental law. In 1995 I was appointed the Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs. In that position I drafted state and national brownfield legislation, and served on national and state advisory committees. I am the former chair of the Municipal Waste Management Association and the Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and member of the Detroit Economic Development Authority. I presently practice law at WilliamsAcosta, PLLC.

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

The present "strong mayor" form of government needs some checks and balances applied. All power should not reside in one branch of government. Such a system can and will lead to mischief. Moreover, if we really want to hold city council accountable for "something", then we must decide what that "something" will be. The charter revision process is the process by which the citizens of the City of Detroit will decide what checks and balances will apply in our local government and what power city council will have to assure that our government is transparent and accountable to its citizens.

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

The Ethics Board must be empowered to do more than issue advisory opinions. It must be able to examine the facts of any given situation, issue a decision on whether the party or parties involved have transgressed the City's ethical code and issue, at least, a reprimand to the individuals involved, if warranted. The Board's decisions must be made public so that the citizens of Detroit know what is going on inside the government and hold their elected officials, appointees and civil servants accountable for their actions.

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

Yes. Either districts only or a combination of districts and at large. Any election by districts would have to be based on the principle of one man, one vote as required by law.

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

1. Equal representation for all citizens
2. Ethical conduct of elected officials, appointees, and employees;
3. Defining those actions that will lead to forfeiture of office by an elected officials
and how removal from office will be accomplished;
4. Re-stating and clarifying the special election process and sucession of office.
5. Re-stating and clarifying the fundamental functions of government and how those functions should be carried out, yet provide for flexibility into the future