

Jeffery Robinson

Age: 40

Education: BA/ Michigan State University/Criminal Justice, MA /University of Detroit Mercy/Educational Administration Public Policy, Michigan State University/PHD/African American African Studies/Educational & Public Policy

Felony Convictions: No

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

The relevant experience that qualifies me to be a Charter Commissioner is: I am an experienced researcher and writer having recently completed one of the most current dissertations dealing with the socio-economic conditions in Detroit. I am also a Program Supervisor in the Office of Professional Development for Detroit Public Schools where I deal with the development of policies for employees and the operation of departments. I also have served as an educator in DPS for 16yrs.

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

I feel that the current system of Mayoral control is one that in general has served other public entities well. Because this has not been the case in Detroit is not necessarily a reason to change it. While I do have some concerns as to how to remove the appearances of improprieties, I feel that it should be maintained. What has to be remembered is that we should analyze the effectiveness of a system of governance by the actions and consequences of an individual's personality.

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

Changes that should be made the City Charter should reflect the presence of ethics and morals stating not only the causes and results of corruption and malfeasance but consequences and solutions as well. Specifically I would advocate for clear and direct paths for the removal of corrupt city officials. I would insist on a system of accountability that would hold elected officials found guilty of violating the public trust culpable not only legally, but financial with the insistence that the people of Detroit be made whole.

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

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Yes, I am in favor of electing council by districts. In doing so I would be in favor of a 5 - 4 district system to ensure equity on the behalf of all citizens. With this system I would introduce the idea of possibly having members nominated by the individual districts and voted on in a citywide general election. This would create an unprecedented level of accountability in city government. If individuals want to run they have to live and work in the community, and when in office they have to be accountable to the entire city and not a select group or constituency.

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

Because any charter revisions would have to be voted on by city residents it only makes sense that those same residents be apart of the development process. With this I would advocate for a series of public meeting where the commission operated with full transparency. I would utilize the power of technology by conducting a number of electronic and written surveys to gather the feelings of the community. Do this would all but eliminate confusion and dissention having made every attempt on the part of the commission to include votes in this democratic process.