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Sent: Saturday, July 14, 2001 11:49 AM
Subject: Advocacy Handout

Please critique the attached advocacy handout, and send me your suggestions! Are these the main arguments; are there other important points? Can they be stated better? Are some points fuzzy? What suggestions do you have?

It's Time to Improve County Representation and Management!

Change Archaic Governing Structure!

The governing structure of Jackson county government is essentially the same as when it was organized by legislative enactment in 1852, only 4 years after Oregon became a Territory. In 1852 there were only a few hundred settlers in the county, and the principal business of the 3 appointed commissioners involved taxes, ferry tolls, elections and roads. Now the 3 elected commissioners represent a population approaching 200,000, govern a county larger than Delaware, control a budget of over \$200 million and oversee a multitude of programs from airports to public health. After 150 years, it's time to improve the governing structure of the county!

Complete County Manager Government!

Because of the increased size and complexity of county government, the Legislature decided in 1944 that counties should have the right to adopt a county manager form of government. In 1980, Jackson county established the position of county administrator. However the county charter was never amended to make the transition to a traditional board/administrator structure. After 150 years, it's time to complete the transition in governing structure!

Improve Efficiency & Accountability!

Although in 1980 the county established and staffed a professional county administrator position, the charter still states that the commissioners are the county administrators. The expertise of the commissioners lies elsewhere. Dispersing administrative authority and accountability among 4 administrators creates the potential for confusion, inefficiency, and distortion of plans and programs. It's time to complete the transition to a traditional board/administrator structure!

Focus Commissioner Expertise!

The expertise of commissioners is the ability to effectively represent the interests, concerns and equities of their constituents. As makers of policy and legislation, they must know how tax levels, services, ordinances, projects and programs impact those constituents. They handle constituent complaints, they oversee county administration, review and evaluate organizational performance, and hire and fire the county administrator.

It's time the charter reflects that focus in governing structure!

Improve Representation!

While 3 commissioners may have adequately represented around 1,000 county residents in 1852, the present population of nearly 200,000 calls for a larger number of commissioners. Expanding the board from 3 to 5 not only would make it easier to contact a commissioner, it also increases the likelihood of voters finding one who shares their interests and concerns. Too, it would enable commissioners to focus their efforts on fewer committees and citizen advisory groups.

It's time to improve representation by increasing the number of commissioners!

Improve Deliberation!

With a board of 3 commissioners, decisions can be made that represent but two viewpoints on issues. And since 2 commissioners represent a board quorum, and state law requires all deliberation by board quorums be in public meetings, there can be no serious discussion of issues by commissioners outside of public meetings. Too it's much more difficult, interpersonally, to represent a minority opinion when it's 2:1 than when it's 3:2.

Also

It's time to improve board deliberation by adding 2 additional commissioners!

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