

AGENDA
October 22, 1997

1997
approved

1. Review and approve or amend the following:

Scope: Update the 1985 Jackson County Study Report by

- a. reviewing the current Jackson County Home Rule Charter
- b. studying the model charter as a yardstick
- c. comparing it with other county governments

The focus of the study will be to evaluate the County Administrative Officer's role in and impact on county government, 2) citizen involvement policies and procedures, 3) the role, degree of responsibility and composition of the Board of Commissioners, and 4) other elective office positions, whether they should be appointed or elected.

2. Time and date of next meeting - ask for e-mail addresses

3. Group discussions:

- ✓ a. Local Study Workshop - Carol Ingelson
- ✓ b. Criteria for Analysis of County Government - May Lou Stewart
- ✓ c. History of Jackson County Charter - B. Jarvis if present
- ✓ d. LWV Everymember Material 1987 - Anna Hirst
- e. Jackson County Government Study Report - Fran Skufca
- f. Presentation to ALWV by Carol Doty - Barbara Bean

No team - R. Bean

4. Subject of next meeting

S. Toratovic - Anna

Joe Charters - Mat - Fran

→ ?

Title: Restudy of Jackson County Government - 2nd year

Scope: Identify the weaknesses of the current Home Rule Charter of Jackson County and examine how these might be remedied, including possible roles for the Two Leagues in the county.

Outlook for Work:

1. Assemble or obtain a compilation of ^{OR's} state and county laws which enumerate county governments' powers and responsibilities, including those of the county administrator

OK

✓ 2. Compare this compilation with the Model County Charter of the National Municipal League and with Or county charters, concentrating mainly on Home Rule counties. This can be done by direct examination and through surveys. Identify where Jackson County's charter is weak, inadequate or needs expansion.

OK

3. Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of alternative provisions (or inclusions) for the number of council members, districting, which officials should be elected, which appointed, public participation, possible divisions of power between council and administrator, non-partisanship of elections, for commissioners, full time for commissioners, administrator's powers covered by charter or ordinance. This will require research of model government theory and interviews of people who have served in county government or have been close to different county governments. (Interviewees might include county officials, political commentators, League members in other counties, representatives of Rogue Valley organizations, as well as designated leaders in the county.

OK

4. Prepare an information base about different approaches to Charter revision - patchwork ordinances, complete revision by ballot, initiative or a county charter commission.

5. Construct consensus questions that would clarify what charter changes our 2 Leagues would support and what actions the respective leagues might wish to take in achieving any desired revisions

or OR

Draw up a tentative charter proposal for League study and consensus consideration.



ISSUES FOR MEMBERSHIP -- RESTUDY OF JACKSON COUNTY POSITION

- 2
1. ~~Council/Manager~~ form of government *Commission/Administrators* ✓ ✓ ~~manager~~ ✓

Charters vs Ordinances ✓
✓
✓

2. Re: commissioners
- a. number
 - b. by districts or at large *configuration*
 - c. full or part time *w/ remuneration*
 - d. nonpartisan
 - e. configuration of - (i.e. 4 by districts, 1 at large)
 - f. ~~remuneration~~

ADMINISTRATOR

3. Elected vs. appointed
- a. sheriff ✓
 - b. clerk
 - c. assessor
 - d. treasurer
 - e. surveyor

Dept. Head 2

LWVA Members of study
 Anna Hirst
 Barbara Bean
 Sidney Goldberg
 Barbara Jarvis
 May Lou Stewart

LWVRV
 ✓ Fran Skufca ✓
~~Sheila Kimball~~
 Trudy Bridges
~~Agnes Chingwin~~
 Lillian Macen
 Ruth Rehfeldt
 ✓ Matt Kucmierzki ✓
~~Diana Kuch~~
 ✓ Normary Bennett ✓
 Vera Marrell ✓

Possible interviewees
 ✓ Kathy Beckett
 Russell Sadler
 Bill Mansfield
 Steve Hauck
 John Hanson
 Fete Naumed
 Jeff Golden

John S. ...
Vera Marrell

April 10, 1997

**ANNUAL MEETING OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ROQUE VALLEY CHAPTER**

Location: Roque Valley Manor Sunset Room
5:30 p.m.

Attending: Normary Barrett, Helen Bosserman, Trudy Bridgers, Martha Brooks, Kathryn Bulger, Mary Carlon, Agnes Chirgwin, Joan Davenport, Sally Densmore, Dorothea Donaghy, Jeanne Gang, Kathryn Gordon, Patricia Guild, Carolyn & Gerald Hannum, Barbara Bean, Carol Ingelson, Barbara Jarvis, Dora Kelsey, Marianne Key, Sheila, Matt & Judy Kocmierski, Kathleen Kirchen, Fumi Kobayashi, Lilian Macon, Doris Mayfield, Jean Milgram, Helen Morgan, Vera Morrell, Ruth Rehfeldt, Joan Rogers, Helen Scholom, Ruth Shutes, Fran Skufca, Marcia Smith, Helen Thomas, Kathy Veittasa, and Patricia Washburne.

CALL TO ORDER:

League President, Vera Morrell, called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Agnes Chirgwin was appointed parliamentarian by the President. A quorum of members was present. Carol Ingelson, League Secretary, recorded the minutes of this meeting. A committee of three was appointed to approve the minutes of the 1997 Annual Meeting: Joan Davenport, Ruth Shutes, and Patricia Washburne. The rules and agenda for the meeting were announced, then M/S/A.

ADOPTION OF CURRENT POSITIONS:

The President outlined the procedure for the program adoption. The following actions were taken:

LAND USE: Helen Thomas moved and it was seconded to retain this position.

JUVENILE JUSTICE: Sally Densmore moved and it was seconded to retain this position.

MEDFORD CITY CHARTER: Jeanne Gang moved and it was seconded to retain this position.

HOME RULE CHARTER: Ruth Rehfeldt moved and it was seconded to retain this position.

JACKSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT: Ruth Rehfeldt moved and it was seconded to retain this position.

Sally Densmore moved, it was seconded, and members voted to approve the adoption of local positions.

ADOPTION OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT STUDY: The LWVRV Board has recommended to members that the Rogue Valley League join the Ashland League in an ~~update of the Jackson County study completed in 1985~~. Following discussion concerning willingness of members to contribute time, the possibility of extending the one-year time constraint, and how results will be used, the vote was unanimous to adopt.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Balance in Checking 03-31-97----- --\$ 1,297.30
 Money Market Account 03-31-97----- -- 1,532.24
 Total Balance in Bank 03-31-97----- -- 1,829.54

The Treasurer, Jean Milgram, went over the LWVRV Proposed Budget 1997-98 as it appeared in the Annual Meeting packet. Ruth Rehfeldt moved for adoption, it was seconded, and unanimously approved by members present.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Vera stressed the need for the League "to celebrate who and what we are." She then thanked each Board member with a gift of chocolates.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Kathryn Bulger gave the following nomination report:

President	Normary Barrett
1st Vice President	Kathy Kirchen
Secretary	Helen Scholom
Directors	Matt Kocmierski
	Sheila Kimball
	Vera Morrell
Nominating Committee:	Mary Carlon
(one-year term)	Jan McIntosh
	Fran Skufca

There were no nominations from the floor. There was a motion for a unanimous ballot for the proposed slate of officers, a second, and the motion carried.

Continuing in elective office will be:

2nd Vice President	Ruth Rehfeldt
Treasurer	Jean Milgram
Directors	Trudy Bridgers
	Marianne Key

DIRECTION FROM MEMBERS:

"For the good of the League" - suggestions, concerns, etc.

Positive comment regarding heightened interest from Grants Pass.

Need to bring in more new and younger members.

DIRECTIONS TO STATE COUNCIL: Normary Barrett, Kathy Kirchen, Marianne Key, and Helen Scholom will serve as delegates to State Council. Trudy Bridgers and Jean Milgram will attend as Observers. Joan Rogers will attend as a member of the State Board of Directors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Letter from Phil Keisling regarding workshop for initiative process in Oregon; KOBI studio, Sat. April 19.

Vera received a call from Kathy Beckett, election office, asking for members to express views to Brady Adams regarding the vote by mail issue.

Cappy Eaton will be at the Ashland League unit meeting at the Mark Antony on May 14, 11:30-1:30: topic will be May 20th election. LWVRV was invited.

The Rogue Valley Civic League will hold a workshop (one of 8 round tables) on Governance and Policy on April 24 at the VA Domiciliary. This is being sponsored by LWVRV. Need for elected officials to be notified.

The April 10, 1997 ANNUAL MEETING of the LWVRV was adjourned by the President Vera Morrell at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Ingelson
Carol Ingelson, Secretary

Date: April 20, 1997

Reviewed by Joan Davenport Date: _____

Reviewed by Ruth Shutes Date: _____

Reviewed by Patricia Washburne Date: _____

Aug - 1998

8-'98 Possible Presentations for Consensus
LWV Joint Study – Forms of County Government
per Anna and Barbara B.

Selection of a Chairman of the Board

There are four options

Elected at large

Elected from a board elected at large, (one of their members)

Elected from a board elected by districts, (one of their members)

Rotating among members of a board

The Model Charter identifies several roles performed by the Chairman

Leadership,

Coordination of activities of other board members

Policy guidance and goal setting

Ambassador to the public and to other governments

Advantages/Disadvantages of Direct Election of Chairman

Chairman has county-wide support base - pro

Chairman may be at variance with majority of board – con

Advantages/disadvantages of Chairman Elected by Board from among their members

They will pick someone whom they are willing to work with - pro

If board members come from districts chairman would have been elected from only one district - con

(The Model Charter commentary says most chairmen are elected by the board)

The Model Charter recommends against a Rotating Chairman because he will not have a chance to grow on the job, and it works against the development of a recognized leader

Board Members from Districts or At Large

The National Civic League Model County Charter says that

In determining the method of electing the council,

consideration should be given to the diversity of population and geographical elements to be represented as well as the size of the county...

In larger counties ...citizens may feel isolated from and unconnected with their government without some

geographical basis of representation. This may be true particularly when a county has both urban and rural areas.

Pro Districts

Easier to be close to constituents

Easier to campaign in a limited area, and cheaper

Easier to keep in touch, physically after elected

More people would realistically be able to run and serve effectively

It would ensure representation of people who might not be well represented if they depended on an overall majority of county voters. In Jackson County there is a very large difference in needs of rural and urban voters. Which ever was in the minority would benefit from having districts.

Pro At Large

More representative of the overall majority of the county

Less voting on the basis of the interests of a single district

Note: the mayor might be elected at large and bring a balance and help overcome the provincial voting if board members were elected by districts

There can also be a mixture of single district and at large members

The Model Charter recommends against staggered terms when a mixed system is used, but does not explain

Mixed single and at large districts are being used in places where there is great opposition to single member districts.

Con- at large members may consider themselves superior to single district members.

Justice Department rulings indicate a "clear preference for a council where the majority is elected by and from districts."

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Number of Board Members

The Model Charter says the most common size (of board) is 3, the next most common size is 5. ... Three is considered too small, but they recommend that the board be "relatively" small, an odd number ranging from five to nine.

Three - con – majorities of 2 for many major decisions. We could abolish the office of manager for instance with the votes of two people.

In actual operation there are only two members present for some board meetings and for parts of many of the other meetings.

Three - pro – not a lot of time is spent in debating decisions. Larger boards frequently take more time to reach decisions.

Five - pro – small but with larger majorities when a member has to be absent

Five – pro – a small change from where we are now, hence probably more acceptable politically

Seven – pro – greater accountability to districts if there were districts

Seven – pro – more drawn out decision making
More expense if board members paid

Compensation of Board Members

The Model Charter Commentary says that "A salary too close to a full-time salary could encourage council members to think of their positions as managerial and thus detract from their role as legislators or policy-makers. It is important, however that council members be compensated for expenses incurred in performing their duties." It goes on to say that the exact amount of compensation should not be in the charter except for the salary of the first council after the charter goes into effect.

The chapter, that makes sense of this, seems to be missing from my copy. I am pretty sure that it says that no board member shall start getting an increased salary until he/she has stood for reelection. BB

Proposal: RESTUDY OF JACKSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Rationale:

An initiative petition to amend the charter for Jackson County has been made public. It behooves the LWVA to look into its changes in order to support or oppose it.

Issues on county level, unlike those at state and national levels, are not of a partisan nature. Perhaps county commissioners should run on non-partisan slates.

At present time a majority of two commissioners can pass issues. Since the county's population is enlarging perhaps more representation is needed.

Scope

Petition mentioned above

Comparison of elected and appointed positions; particularly, treasurer, clerk, assessor, surveyor, D.A., sheriff, judges.

Qualifications for appointing these positions.

Other counties in state and their set-up

Outline for work

Study of initiative petition

Look at present county and compare with other 'home rule' counties in state.

Decide pros and cons of elected vs appointed positions mentioned above

Consider pros and cons of 'at large' vs district elections

Study efficiency and effectiveness of size of board of commissioners

Position

Will LWVA (with concurrence by LWVRV) support the initiative petition?

Should commissioners run on a non-partisan ballot?

Should Jackson County have more than 3 commissioners? Should they ~~run~~ be voted 'at large' or by district?

Should county positions listed under Scope be filled by appointment rather than by elections?

Submitted by Anna Herst