



Office of Community Involvement

Multnomah County Charter Review Subcommittee Recommendation Form



Subcommittee name:	Equitable Representation
Summary of recommendation:	Multnomah County will extend the vote to fullest extent possible allowed by law, including but not limited to noncitizens
What section(s) of the Charter is this recommendation likely to impact?	This would be a new addition to the Charter and is not expected to alter existing sections
What does this recommendation aim to accomplish?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases political power for those who have been disenfranchised • Reduces taxation without representation: in Oregon, over \$100M taxes come from undocumented people • Encourages civic engagement • Increases sense of belonging
What MCCRC values is this recommendation grounded in?	Inclusive Democracy Access & Belonging Justice
What are the potential fiscal impacts of this recommendation?	If voting in Multnomah County can be extended to noncitizens, costs will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional ballot printing costs (for special ballot with only Multnomah County elections items) • Costs related to updating voter registrations • Voter education • Legal costs related to validation and implementation
What potential negative impacts could result from this recommendation? What are potential obstacles to implementation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential backlash against immigrants and non-citizens • Potential legal challenge
What resources did the subcommittee rely on in making this recommendation? (Link or cite documents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past advocacy by immigrants rights organizations for the Oregon Voting Rights Act • Interview with policy experts Ricardo Luján-Valerio and Jessica Maravilla • Legal guidance from Katherine Thomas, including a presentation at the subcommittee's March 21st meeting • Subcommittee discussion; full committee discussion • <i>Democracy Docket</i>. "Understanding Voting Rights for Non-Citizens"

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Berkeley Public Policy Journal: Noncitizen Voting Rights in the United States |
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Multnomah County Charter Review Committee

Shared Values

Justice:

- Healing and justice are central to Multnomah County's government
- Justice extends to all people, and especially people who have been historically marginalized.
- Leading with race is important because of the inequities embedded in governance, with the understanding that it will help create an intersectional approach to this work.

Inclusive democracy:

- Multnomah County's government depends on active participation and representation of the communities people live in.
- People can access and participate in government using their preferred language.
- Outreach is a key value of democracy:
 - Decisions are informed by culturally-specific research and outreach.
 - Relationships should be an authentic, long lasting partnership; they should not be transactional in nature.

Access and belonging:

- People know how to access their leaders and decision-makers.
- People feel that they (and their communities) are a part of decision-making.
- Government reflects the communities it represents.

Transparency:

- People understand how their county government works.
- People are able to be heard by their government, and influence decision-making.
- Communication with the public by the government is clear, and communities are sought out for their input.

Innovation:

- Government is able to change and adapt to address historic and persistent problems.
 - Change is embraced as a way to better serve communities.
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