



*Candidate Twain Braden did not respond to this questionnaire.*

## Approach to the Charter Commission

1. What do you see as the role of a city's charter? Should the charter, as the city's constitution, solely address how the city is governed, leaving policy issues such as health, labor and the environment to be addressed through ordinance? Why or why not?

**Shamika (Shay) Stewart-Bouley:** *The charter is the founding document and sets the tone for every aspect of the city's government. A charter provides a template for policymaking and decision-making across the city and outlines the vision and expectations for city officials in all areas of concern.*

**David Cowie:** *The charter should be for the city what the Constitution is for our Country. The foundation on which the city's work is based and the framework against which all policy and process must square.*

**Karen Snyder:** *Yes: The City Charter is Portland's constitutional structure. Policies should be addressed through ordinances which can be revised if need be after implementation and after seeing how ordinances play out by city Council or citizen initiated referendum.*

## Mayoral Power

2. Do you favor expanding the role of Portland's elected mayor to include the ability to hire and oversee city staff such as the police chief or public works director? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *Possibly. The city council should have an oversight role in these decisions as well.*

**Cowie:** *I am in the process of learning what powers the mayor presently holds and to what use our mayors have put those powers. It appears that better communication and cooperation between city departments and the leaders of these departments is more at issue than exactly who is charged with making the decision choices.*

**Snyder:** *All upper-level City administrative positions should be hired not by a sole authority but by City Council and mayor. If anything, this type of staff administration level should be hired with Mayor and City Council's input or we are back to the same situation.*

3. Do you favor expanding the role of Portland's elected mayor to include oversight of day-to-day functions of city government, including decisions regarding paving and repairs, and city licensing? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *Possibly. It's important that all government functions are accountable to voters and transparent, with power distributed between elected and appointed officials.*



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**Cowie:** *The function of awarding contracts, licenses, choices for repair or city attention resting in the hands of one individual is fraught. Putting the decision in the hands of a panel or group would hopefully reduce cases of special interest clouding the process.*

**Snyder:** *Portland's elected mayor should be focused on providing guidance on policies driven by the Comprehensive Plan as well as the City Councilors even if this means having positions under neath that are focused on city governmental functions. There needs to be discussion how to provide more transparency and accountability of the City Manager duties and influence that this position has in contracts and policies and reduce the non-partisan influence and outside influence on the City Manager.*

4. Do you favor allowing Portland's elected mayor to have a role in awarding contracts for city services, such as paving contracts, software agreements, or consulting services? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *Possibly. This power should be distributed, and all processes made transparent to voters.*

**Cowie:** *Again, similar to question 3, the function of awarding contracts, licenses, choices for repair or city attention resting in the hands of one individual is fraught. Putting the decision in the hands of a panel or group would hopefully reduce cases of special interest clouding the process.*

**Snyder:** *Portland's elected mayor should be focused on providing guidance on policies driven by the Comprehensive Plan. There needs to be discussion how to provide more transparency and accountability of the City Manager duties and influence that this position has in contracts and policies. The City Manager position needs to be de-mystified to ensure there is accountability for actions not in line with the Comprehensive Plan.*

5. Do you favor allowing Portland's elected mayor having a direct role in police investigations or enforcement actions? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *No, this role should belong to an empowered Citizen Review Subcommittee.*

**Cowie:** *Review and potential overhaul of policing in Portland is a far greater process to manage than just having the mayor's involvement. If the outcome of reviewing the policing procedures in Portland calls for mayoral involvement, then that should happen.*

**Snyder:** *The Mayor's role should have input, but investigations of police activities should be addressed by an independent citizen review board with authority and not any group or organization affiliated with the police department or its employees.*

6. Do you favor allowing Portland's elected mayor to have sole authority to appoint city councilors to city council policy committees, similar to the Maine Legislature or US Congress (currently such authority is subject to override by a majority of the Council)? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *No, the Council should play a role in setting its members' assignments.*



**Cowie:** *Sole authority? No. Shared responsibility with an executive group? Yes. One person holding complete control leads to disenfranchisement.*

**Snyder:** *This practice is currently in all levels of government from local, state, and federal level.*

## Electoral Reform

7. Do you favor having Portland taxpayers pay for the campaigns of candidates running for City Council, Mayor, or School Board through a clean elections system? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *Yes. Such a funding system would expand the opportunity of running for office to low- and middle-income Portlanders, many of them renters and working people. This would improve economic equity and also expand access to public office for communities of color.*

**Cowie:** *I support this - bringing limits to campaign spending is sorely needed. Let's start locally.*

**Snyder:** *Yes. In fact, there should be very little money allocated to elections for candidates. Currently, campaign donations provide access to candidates after being elected. This is not how it should be. In addition, out of state contributions also needs to be removed from the equation.*

8. Should the City Council have the authority to amend citizen-initiated referendum questions passed by the voters? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *No. Ballot questions should appear as the citizens who initiated them and signed the related petitions intended*

**Cowie:** *No. Having been involved with several citizen initiatives it is the purest form of democracy - and the outcome of these votes should be honored.*

**Snyder:** *No. The City Council already has an option to put on the ballot their own variation of the citizen-initiated referendum that is being proposed at that time.*

## Mayor and Council Process

9. Do you favor giving Portland's Mayor/City Council dedicated staff to respond to constituents and research policy proposals? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *Yes. There are few duties at City Hall more important than constituent service.*

**Cowie:** *Yes. Any employee of the city who is assisting citizens to access their government is helpful.*

**Snyder:** *Currently, staff already does their own research of policies when providing recommendations. So, not sure what this question is trying to ask when staff already does their own policy research.*



10. Do you favor allowing city councilors direct access to city staff as part of their policymaking function? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *Yes. Councilors need access to information on staff activities and results as part of their decision-making.*

**Cowie:** *Yes. Sound policy structure requires solid and relevant information which councilors must be able to access to best serve the city's needs.*

**Snyder:** *Yes. The current City Manager has stopped city staff from having direct access to City Councilors. Is this why certain issues have been delayed and dragged out so long in City Council since Councilors cannot do their own research with city staff outside of city council meetings?*

11. Do you favor increasing the number of City Councilors beyond the current nine (Mayor and eight councilors)? Why or why not?

**Stewart-Bouley:** *Yes. The current system means many councilors are overburdened with work out of proportion to their compensation. Also, districts are too large and do not represent city neighborhoods. Increasing the number of councilors would provide more resources to accomplish the work and provide better local representation for voters.*

**Cowie:** *Creating additional seats on the Council would presumably give the citizens greater access to city government as there would be a lower number of citizens for each councilor to serve.*

**Snyder:** *Yes, certain districts cover too many competing interests such as District 1 which has residential, downtown, and Peaks Island residents. At-Large Councilors need to be removed from the equation because they are not held accountable to any district and can vote against residents' interests in districts in which they do not reside in.*