



Charter Commission of the *City of Jefferson*

Dear Citizens of Jefferson City:

On February 5, 1985, the people of Jefferson City voted overwhelmingly in favor of the election of a commission to draft a home rule charter for the city in accordance with the provisions of the Missouri Constitution.

The "home rule" concept exemplifies the idea that a free people should control the process of establishing a city government, designing its form, fixing its powers, and determining the officers who are to exercise the powers, duties, and responsibilities of that government rather than operating under the statutes written by legislators with no interest in our city government.

Since its first meeting, the commission has worked earnestly to fulfill its responsibility. The commissioners considered current developments in municipal government, solicited the views and experiences of governmental officials and citizens in other cities, and secured recommendations of our own citizens, both within and without our city government. The charters of other Missouri cities were studied and compared in detail. Public hearings were conducted as the provisions of the charter progressed from preliminary proposals to the final drafts.

After dozens of meetings of the entire commission involving many hours of effort, the commission has finally prepared and adopted the proposed home rule charter to be submitted for voter approval on February 4, 1986. Every provision of this charter has been studied, considered, and formally passed upon by the commissioners.

A city charter provides the basic framework for the conduct of city government. It provides the governing body sufficient flexibility to deal effectively with problems confronting the city, and contains the necessary safeguards to protect citizens against the abuse of power. The commission is pleased to present this document for your consideration. We believe it will insure, to the extent possible in a written document, that this city will have effective government responsive to the wishes of the citizens. Some of the features of the charter are briefly outlined below:

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The charter proposes no dramatic change in the present form of government. The council will retain its legislative and policy-making authority, the mayor his executive authority, and the city administrator his administrative authority.

CITY COUNCIL

Under the proposed charter, the council will retain its present responsibilities and composition: two councilmen from each of five wards who serve for two-year terms. As it does today, the council will establish policies, set tax rates, authorize expenditures and approve administrative nominees, including the city administrator.

MAYOR

The responsibilities and term of office for mayor will remain the same. He will be elected for four years from the city at-large. The mayor will be the official representative and executive of the city. He will preside over the meetings of the council and appoint members to various boards and commissions with the consent of the council.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The position of city administrator is to be continued. He is to be appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council on the basis of qualifications. He is to be responsible for the operation of all city departments including the appointment and removal of all city employees except department heads and division supervisors whose appointment and removal are to be recommended by the city administrator to the mayor and council for approval.

DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All existing city departments, boards and commissions are to be continued. Departments, boards and commissions other than the park board, the firemen's pension fund, and the police personnel board may be eliminated, added or changed by ordinance in the future. The charter provides for a parks and recreation commission along the lines of the present park board and requires the continuation of a merit system for the administration of the police department.

FINANCE

The charter provides for the establishment of financial procedures of the city and approval of a budget after public hearing. The finance department is to be managed by the fiscal officer whose qualifications and duties are set by ordinance. When the term of the current city treasurer expires, the fiscal officer will serve as treasurer.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The charter provides for the election of a municipal judge elected for a term of two years.

CITY COUNSELOR AND CITY PROSECUTOR

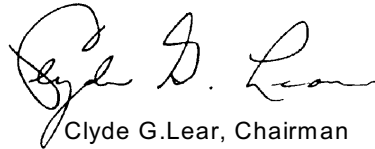
The city counselor is to be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council to serve for an indefinite term. It is his job to represent the city in all legal matters except the prosecution of violations of city ordinances which is the responsibility of the city prosecutor who is elected for a two-year term.

POPULAR CONTROL

Provisions are included in the charter so that citizens may petition to require an election to adopt an ordinance (initiative), to repeal an existing ordinance (referendum) or to remove an elected official from office (recall).

Please study the entire proposed charter and don't hesitate to call anyone of us with your questions. Remember to vote on the proposed charter February 4, 1986.

Very truly yours,



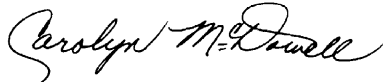
Clyde G. Lear, Chairman



ss/ Thomas P. Rackers, Vice Chair.



ss/ Paul D. Schleer



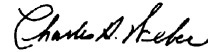
ss/ Carolyn McDowell, Secretary



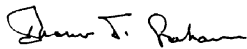
ss/ Fred J. Vogel



ss/ Thomas H. Benton



ss/ Charles A. Weber



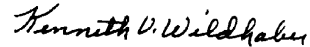
ss/ Thomas J. Graham




ss/ Steve Weber




ss/ Ed H. Rackers



ss/ Kenneth V. Wildhaber



ss/ Patricia Sanders



ss/ Richard J. Wilson