

City of Lansing Charter Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers
Lansing City Hall, 10th floor
124 W. Michigan Avenue



July 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Adopt the Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

- A. June 24, 2025 Minutes

5. Public Comment

- A. People wishing to share public comment virtually may do so. The deadline to register to comment this way is 6PM, 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. Sign up at this link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/c4f527f5-c402-4525-8a62-8d562154cab1@87509dee-095b-4ff8-ba5a-0035cdfc715d>
People sharing public comment in person at the meeting may sign up when they arrive to the meeting.

6. Officer Reports

- A. Chair
- B. Vice-Chair
- C. Clerk

7. New Business

- A. RFP for Public Relations Services

8. Public Comment

9. Commissioner Remarks

10. Adjournment

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (517) 483-4131 (TTY 711). 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation request.

Minutes for the City of Lansing Charter Commission

Regular Meeting | Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 6:30 PM

Tony Benavides City Council Chambers,
Lansing City Hall, 10th floor, 124 W. Michigan Ave.

Present: Commissioners Adams Simon, Bauer, Boyd, Dowd, Jeffries, Lopez (6:35), Qawwee, Washington

Absent: Commissioner Anderson

Staff Present: Chief Deputy City Clerk Jackson, Deputy Clerk Drever, Attorney Rewa

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeffries at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

Clerk Jackson called the roll of the Commission. A quorum was present.

Adopt the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Dowd to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Boyd to adopt June 3rd, 2025, minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Presentation

A. Legal Instructions on Commission's Ability to Inform

Attorney Rewa presented an in-depth overview of the Campaign Finance Act and how it pertains to the Commission's work as a body and the Commissioners' actions as individuals.

Then, she took questions from the Commissioners on their ability to inform voters about the proposed charter.

Officer Reports

Chair

Chair Jeffries spoke about the plan for the Commission moving forward. He addressed the process with the Attorney General's office, and potential avenues for informing the public of the proposed Charter. Makes mention of when to meet prior to ballots going out on September 25, 2025.

Discussion followed on the Commission's budget, the Commission's timeline, and the public information strategy.

Chair Jeffries called the next Commission meeting for July 15, 2025.

Vice-Chair

No report.

Clerk

Deputy Clerk Jackson shared a draft document that highlights changes in the proposed charter. Discussion followed on the costs associated with information efforts.

Moved by Commissioner Dowd to authorize up to \$5,000 may be spent by the Commission for graphic design of an informational postcard.

Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Adams Simon commented to ensure that all communities are visited in the information efforts.

Commissioners briefly discussed the draft highlights document.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

Commissioner Remarks

No remarks were made.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jeffries at 7:25 PM.

DRAFT Informational Community Meetings Schedule

Ward 1

Partnering Organization: Eastside Neighborhood Organization
Approved to attend: Wednesday, September 3 / 7PM
Location: Foster Community Center, Room 210

Ward 2

Partnering Organizations: Scott Woods and Sycamore Creek Church
Preferred: Wednesday September 10 (proposed start between 6pm and 7pm)
or Saturday, September 6 (proposed start 11am)
Location: Sycamore Creek Church

Ward 3

Partnering Organization: Churchill Downs Community Association
Pending confirmation: August 20 / 6:30 PM
Location: Schmidt Community Center, Community Room

Ward 4

Partnering Organization: Westside Neighborhood Association
Approved to attend: Wednesday, September 24 / 6:30 PM
Location: Letts Community Center, Community Room

Lansing City Charter Commission Comment Submission Form

06/30/2025 2:45 PM (EDT)

Lansing City Charter Commission Comment Submission Form

Purpose

Use this form to submit your comment to the Lansing Charter Commission about the Lansing City Charter.

Lansing City Charter Commission Comment Submission Form

First Name	Mike
Last Name	Braem
(Optional) Contact information is optional, but providing it will make it easier for potential follow up.	
Email	braem@comcast.net
Phone	5174203511
City	Lansing
State	Michigan
Zip Code	48910

Lansing City Charter Commission Comment Submission Form

Topic	Recommended Changes to Proposed Charter Revision
Comment	<p>Given the political uncertainties today, I would add a definition of "Citizen" to the charter. It's sad that we have to go down that road, but it should be clear what Lansing means when it states a "citizen," which should square with the Michigan and US Constitution.</p> <p>For Sections 3-203, 3-205, and any other section which relates to a quorum, I think the Charter should be very clear as to whether a quorum has to be live, on-line, or both. I can't remember where but I thought I read a challenge to a quorum during the COVID pandemic because it appeared that a quorum would only count if the members were present in person. I think language should be added that a quorum can count whether it's in person or online.</p> <p>Lastly, I don't understand why you would consider deleting Sections 3-401 et seq, which deal with internal or external audits. The last thing the City Council needs right now is removal of audit mechanisms. Maybe I missed something, but I think this is a bad idea.</p>

(Optional) If your message relates to a specific article(s) in the Charter please select it here:

- ARTICLE 1 - GENERAL
- ARTICLE 3 – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Drever, Emery

From: Scott Hughes <contactscotthughes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 6:21 PM
To: Chartercommission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Charter reforms

Chairperson Jeffries and Commissioners:

Your work on behalf of Lansing, in drafting a new and improved charter, is much appreciated. Speaking as a Lansing resident and a voter, I'm looking forward to supporting it in the November general election. Thank you for volunteering your time, your energy, and your expertise to make this plan a reality.

The proposed reforms include, for the first time, charter recognition of sexual orientation and gender identity'. They also expand ward representation, while maintaining the at-large Councilmembers who are elected by the entire city. Our council's diversity, and our city's civic unity, are preserved and enhanced through this balance of neighborhood-based and at-large representation.

David Hollister, our former Mayor (who also served as a cabinet-level state official and longtime State Representative), proposed valuable reforms that are incorporated into the charter reform proposal. He advised a new provision that each Mayor create a comprehensive plan for the city, one that is open and available to the public. Having lived and led through much of our city's history, Mr. Hollister's advice is grounded in wisdom and experience.

The Charter Commission proposal was created in an open and inclusive process, one that can serve as a model for citizen-driven change. The reforms were led by an elected group of citizens, who took advice, counsel, and input from persons throughout our city. The Commission sought out input from residents, and also those with subject matter expertise (such as City Attorney staff, for example).

Thank you again, and I look forward to voting Yes in this year's general election.

Scott Hughes
228 Leslie St.
Lansing, MI 48912