



Kansas City Missouri Charter Review Commission  
Co-Chairs Dr. Gayle Holiday, Matt Dameron & Commissioners,

August 26, 2013

The South Kansas City Alliance (SKCA) appeared before the Commission on July 24, 2013 with a request that the Commission hold public forums in the various neighborhoods of the city, especially in the evening hours to offer greater input to all citizens. We thank you for honoring that request when you held the two recent public forums in the northern and southern sections of the city. Your response was swift and it helped to broaden the basis of input from many sectors of the public and to educate all of us on the important work of the Commission.

SKCA comes today to offer our thoughts on some of the concepts you have heard in the testimony to date. We understand that you received some new ideas last week from the public forum and you may continue to receive additional ideas as your work progresses. Thus, we may offer additional input to these new concepts in the future.

At a special Board meeting on Saturday, August 24, 2013, SKCA voted unanimously to support the below resolution presented by the SKCA Government Affairs Committee as presented (below). The Board further voted that this resolution be presented to the Kansas City Charter Review Commission at its next meeting on August 26, 2013 (now September 9, 2013).

**Resolution from the South Kansas City Alliance Board:**

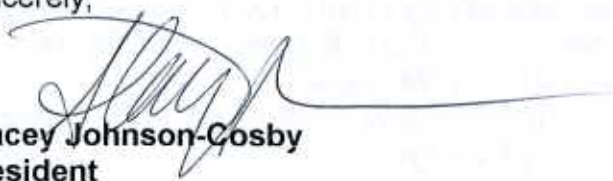
1. South Kansas City Alliance (SKCA) recommends to the Kansas City Charter Commission that they **not make any changes in Article II** -Mayor and Members of the Council, Division 2- Officers Appointed by the Council, Part 3- City Manager; Section 218.City Manager. Specifically we support the current language of Section 218 which gives joint power to the Mayor and City Council to appoint and remove from office the City Manager.
2. ~~South Kansas City Alliance also recommends to the Kansas City Charter Commission that they~~ **add language to Article II**- Mayor and Members of the Council, Division 1-Mayor and Council, Section 203 - Council districts, (b) *Redistricting*.  
Suggested language:

Districts should be as geographically compact as possible for the following reasons:  
a. to facilitate citizen organization,

- b. to be composed of contiguous territory (except when separated by other jurisdictions) to avoid gerrymandering,
  - c. to retain neighborhood boundaries to maximize the influence of unified neighborhood interests, and/or to reflect other substantial geographically located communities of interest,
  - d. to retain historic boundaries insofar as possible and
  - e. to protect the rights of politically cohesive racial and ethnic minority groups that are large and geographically compact enough to constitute a majority in a district to elect their preferred candidates in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
3. Regarding the proposal to remove nine charter departments to become departments that are subject only to Council ordinances; SKCA does not know of a compelling reason to change these departments; therefore at this time **we do not support the removal of any departments from the charter.**
  4. **SKCA does support a provision that would allow City Councilmembers to** serve on unpaid appointed boards, commissions and committees of other units of government; provided that such service would not give rise to any conflict of interest with the Councilmembers primary duty to serve KCMO and their constituents.
  5. **SKCA does support changing the election dates** for mayor and Council from the current dates to coincide with other election dates to reduce costs to the taxpayers and facilitate greater voter turnout.
  6. **SKCA recommends that each group of proposed Charter changes be presented to the voters as separate issues.** If the changes include some "minor" changes that are related such as clarifying language of an existing section of the Charter, then that type of change could be grouped into one issue for the voters.
  7. SKCA at this time **does not have a position on the proposal to change the current makeup of the council districts.** We see strong reasons for both new proposals (9 in-district and 3 at-large council members; and 12 in-district council members with no at-large councilmembers); and for leaving the current arrangement (6 in-district and 6 at-large council members) in place.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit this resolution and urge that you consider and support these positions.

Sincerely,



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