

June 6, 2018

A brief outline of my positions on the council/city manager form of government in Cleveland Heights

I favor maintaining the basic structure of our government. I do not believe it is deficient compared to neighboring communities in our region with “strong mayor” governments. We have made tremendous progress these past 5 years on our infrastructure issues (roads, sewers and water), defining our priorities (our Master Plan), creating an effective strategy for major development objectives, such as Top of the Hill, and adding key personal to get the job done, from my perspective as an 11 year resident.

I would support reasonable adjustments to our charter in the following areas:

- 1) Without losing the stability of staggered elections (3 council members in 2019; 4 in 2021, 3 in 2023.....), I would support equitable (TBD) methods of electing the president of council from the citizen vote, rather than via vote of council members. Though popularly elected, this position would remain ceremonial, and would possess no veto power over the other council members, nor appoint or oversee any city employees.
- 2) We should drop the “mayor” designation and use only the “president of council” title to aid public understanding of our government structure.
- 3) Compensation for council members should be adjusted for inflation on a regular basis, perhaps every four years. Compensation for the president of council merits increasing an additional 10-15%.
- 4) I want to learn if ranked choice voting is possible for our council races.
- 5) I would consider term limits for council members; perhaps 12-16 years.
- 6) I prefer that all council members remain elected at large, and would support post election council assignment of responsibility for each member (including the president) to specific, publicly identified geographic areas of responsibility to residents and businesses.
- 7) I am open to discussion on council vacancies remaining open until the next general city election.

Regarding the city manager position, I do not see any major job description changes necessary. Our focus should be on charter adjustments that attract competent and motivated council candidates willing to serve, provide performance oversight of our city manager, and collaborative legislative direction for Cleveland Heights.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Gaynier