

CHARTER COMMISSION
BROAD OVERVIEW: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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1. Charter Cities
 - Authorized by Minn. Stat., Chap. 410.05
 - Charter cities are unique in that the charter can both grant and restrict the City's powers
 - Charter is like "Constitution" of the City

2. Commission Members
 - Appointed by the chief judge of the district court
 - No compensation
 - Costs of operations are paid by the City
 - Not less than 7 members nor more than 15, which city may, by charter provision, fix the exact size
 - After initial appointments with varied terms, commission members serve for four years

3. Role of Charter Commission
 - An independently appointed commission that serves as the custodian of the City Charter
 - Examines issues related to the powers of the City
 - Authorized to initiate amendments to the Charter
 - Initiate or review proposed charter amendments
 - May propose amendments (ballot)
 - By petition of at least 5% of voters in the last general election (ballot)
 - Council may propose amendments (ballot)
 - Joint support for amendment by ordinance (no ballot)

4. Commission Meetings
 - Must meet at least once a year
 - Can be called to meet to consider an issue by:
 - Petition of at least 10% of the number of voters at last annual municipal election
 - Resolution adopted by a majority of the City Council

5. Charter Authority vs. Statutory Authority
 - Interplay between Charter and Statutes can get confusing
 - Charter dictates unless a statute specifically states the statutory provision applies to charter and statutory cities
 - If Charter is silent, and statute regulates, then statute fills in the gap