

CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT

No. 68

**Letter regarding appointment of
New Charter Commission of Minneapolis**

February 1957

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Citizens League
601 Syndicate Building
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

Approved by
Board of Directors
February 15, 1957

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Forms and Structure Committee
SUBJECT: Proposed letter to District Judges regarding appointment of
new Charter Commission

Recognizing that an effective Charter Commission can render important service to city government, the Citizens League considers the Charter Commission appointments to be made on March 12, 1957 an opportunity to insure an active and able commission through wise selection of members.

Toward that end, we wish to make to the District Judges the following recommendations:

- 1). That the policy of including in a new Charter Commission a nucleus of experienced members and the replacement of some former members by new appointees be continued in order to assure that
 - (a) Charter Commission proceedings shall have continuity but shall not be static,
 - (b) Opportunity to give close attention to city government problems and to influence directions for improvement shall be distributed among more citizens,
 - (c) The city shall have the benefit of a new attack as well as experience in consideration of its problems.

Continuation of this policy of combined reappointment and replacement is recommended by the League for the terms 1957-61 with this suggested change: That less than one-half the present commission members shall be retained and that the remainder shall be new appointees.

Our recommendation includes that the basis for reappointment or not shall be seniority, i.e., those members most recently appointed shall be continued in office, those of longest service shall be replaced.

Examination of the composition of the present Charter Commission shows members divided into three groups on the basis of seniority:

- Group 1. Those who have served more than one term (6). They are Messrs. Anderson, Eberl, Fassett and Paul and Mmes. Bardwell and Winston.
- Group 2. Those who have served less than one term (4). Messrs. Bailey and Seibert and Mmes. Everson and Gale.
- Group 3. Members who have served one term (5): Messrs Boblett, Covey, Curran, Donaghue and Molander.

The League recommends that those in group 1 should not be reappointed, those in group 2 should be reappointed, and those members of group 3 to be reappointed should be those presently indicating no unwillingness to continue service.

Under this plan there might be eight appointments available for new appointees. The Citizens League wishes to submit for consideration by the District Judges the following list of freeholders:

Gordon Mikkelson
Harry Leonard
Lee Loevinger
Gerald Dillon

Mrs. Sally Luther
John F. Finn, Jr.
Shelton Granger
Frederick W. Thomas

Lloyd M. Short
Norman L. Newhall, Jr.
David Preus
Mrs. Janet Widseth
Myron Powell

Attention is called to the fact the suggested list of possible commission members aims at fair and balanced representation of the varied interests in the City, which is assumed to be also an objective of the judges in composing the Charter Commission.