

Presentation by J. Edward Johnson, Director of Legislative Affairs for Columbus City Council (as prepared for delivery)

Good evening members of the Charter Review Committee.

This evening my presentation will have several parts for members:

1. City satisfaction metrics;
2. Best Cities Index ranking and explanation; and
3. Comparative analysis of the size of city councils around the country.

Please feel free to ask questions throughout the presentation, and I will do my best to provide answers.

City satisfaction metrics

Per the Committee's request regarding metrics on resident satisfaction in various cities, staff has provided members with a spreadsheet that summarizes the finds of a 2014 Gallup-Healthways survey of metropolitan service areas (MSAs) for the years 2012-2013. The initial survey polled residents in 189 of the country's MSAs on whether or not residents were satisfied with the city or area in which he/she lives.

So as not to overwhelm the committee with data sets, staff has pulled the survey results for the MSAs anchored by the country's top 25 largest cities and all of the MSAs in Ohio.

The survey results will show that 86.6 percent of respondents in the Columbus MSA are satisfied with where they resident. That result makes Columbus the MSA with the most satisfied residents in the state, and clusters us in the 85-90 range with MSAs like Austin-Round Rock, Charlotte, Nashville, San Diego, Portland, Seattle and San Francisco.

Based upon the results of this Gallup-Healthways survey, staff would conclude that Columbus has a generally satisfied citizenry.

Best Cities Index

Next, I'd like to provide some background on the Best Cities Index, which you will hear referenced quite a bit throughout my presentation.

The Best Cities Index is compiled by WalletHub and ranks the 62 largest cities with populations over 300,000 on the basis of metrics that include livability, local economy and taxes, the quality of each city's health and education systems. The information for each of those metrics come from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Council for Community and Economic Research, the Child Care Aware of America, the National Partnership for Women and Families, GreatSchool.org, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other organizations.

Municipal governance and satisfaction are not a rich veins of research, and through staff's work, we found the methodology used in the Best Cities Index provided one of the better "apples-to-apples" comparisons of quality of life in cities throughout the country.

Size of City Councils

Building on the presentation from the Committee's last meeting, where we discussed the various structures of municipal governments around the country the Chair has asked that I provide members with information on top twenty-five largest cities' legislative bodies. Additionally, staff has included data on Ohio's seven largest charter cities.

TOP 25 CITIES – RANKINGS AND TOTAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

CITY	POPULATION RANKING	SIZE OF COUNCIL
New York	1	51
Los Angeles	2	15
Chicago	3	50
Houston	4	17
Philadelphia	5	17
Phoenix	6	9
San Antonio	7	11
San Diego	8	9
Dallas	9	15
San Jose	10	11
Austin	11	11
Jacksonville	12	19
San Francisco	13	11
Indianapolis	14	25
Columbus	15	7
Fort Worth	16	9
Charlotte	17	11
Seattle	18	9
Denver	19	13
El Paso	20	9
Detroit	21	9
Washington, D.C.	22	13
Boston	23	13
Memphis	24	13
Nashville	25	40

Comparative cities with populations in the 800,000 range, based on 2015 population figures, were assessed (with the exception of Jacksonville and Indianapolis as outliers) for the average of size of councils. San Francisco (864,816), Fort Worth (833,319) and Charlotte (827,097) were averaged with Columbus (850,106) for a total of 9.5 members.

TOP 25 CITIES – BEST CITIES INDEX AND TOTAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

CITY	BEST CITIES INDEX	SIZE OF COUNCIL
San Francisco	1	11
Seattle	2	9
Denver	5	13
San Jose	6	11
Austin	7	11
San Diego	8	9
Washington, D.C.	10	13
Charlotte	18	11
Boston	19	13
Nashville	27	40
Columbus	30	7
Houston	36	17
Los Angeles	38	15
Fort Worth	39	9
Phoenix	41	9
New York	42	51
Jacksonville	43	19
Dallas	48	15
San Antonio	49	11
El Paso	52	9
Chicago	53	50
Indianapolis	56	25
Philadelphia	58	17
Memphis	61	13
Detroit	62	9

Cities with a Best Cities Index of 30 or less, and populations in the 800,000 range, including San Francisco (864,816), Charlotte (827,097) and Columbus (850,106), comprise an average of 9.66 council members. An assessment of the top 12 Best Index cities, with the exception of Houston (17) and Nashville (40) as outliers, demonstrates an average of 10.8 total council members.

Using Columbus' ranking of 30 as a benchmark, eight of the top 10 U.S. cities (80%) on the Best Cities Index ranked above 30, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, Dallas. Two of the top 10 U.S. cities (20%) on the Best Cities Index ranked under 30, which included San Diego and San Jose.

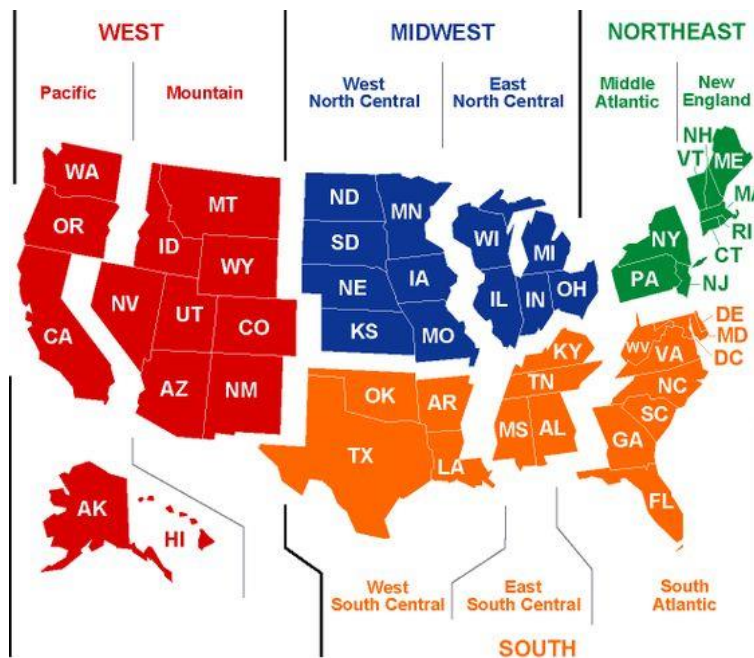
TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

CITY	SIZE OF COUNCIL	BEST CITIES INDEX
Dayton	5	DNR
Columbus	7	30
Youngstown	8	DNR
Cincinnati	9	DNR
El Paso	9	52
Fort Worth	9	39
Phoenix	9	41
Detroit	9	62
San Diego	9	8
Seattle	9	2
Austin	11	7
Charlotte	11	18
San Antonio	11	49
San Jose	11	6
San Francisco	11	1
Toledo	12	DNR
Akron	13	DNR
Boston	13	19
Memphis	13	61
Washington, D.C.	13	10
Denver	13	5
Dallas	15	48
Los Angeles	15	38
Cleveland	17	60
Houston	17	36
Philadelphia	17	58
Jacksonville	19	43
Indianapolis	25	56
Nashville	40	27
Chicago	50	53
New York	51	42

A comparison of top cities in Ohio, which incorporate the size of council by Charter, establishes an average of 10.1 members. However, of these cities, only Columbus ranks in the top 30 on the Best Cities Index (Cleveland ranks 60th). Top Midwest cities – including Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, as well as other cities throughout Ohio – generally do not offer an apt comparison to Columbus because they have non-comparable or no Best Cities Index rankings. Further, aside from Detroit, the total numbers of Council members for Chicago (50 members) and Indianapolis (25 members) do not provide an applicable comparison.

TOP 25 CITIES BY REGION – RANGE: RATIO OF RESIDENTS PER COUNCIL MEMBER

The chart presented below divides the United States into regions, West, Midwest, Northeast, and South with further delineation in each region.



TOP CITIES BY REGION THROUGHOUT THE U.S.	RANGE: RATIO – NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO RESIDENTS	RANGE: TOTAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
West / Pacific: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle	264,792 → 76,050	15 → 9
West / Mountain: Denver, Phoenix	173,669 → 52,503	13 → 9
South / West South Central: Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio	135,072 → 75,680	17 → 9
South / East South Central: Memphis, Nashville	50,444 → 16,365	40 → 13
South / South Atlantic: Charlotte, Jacksonville, Washington, D.C.	75,191 → 45,686	19 → 11
Northeast / Middle Atlantic: New York, Philadelphia	167,655 → 92,202	51 → 17
Midwest / East North Central: Chicago, Columbus , Detroit, Indianapolis	121,444 → 34,127	50 → 7
Northeast / New England: Boston	51,318	13
Midwest / East North Central: Other Cities in Ohio - Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown	33,172 → 8,148	17 → 5

A majority of the most populous U.S. cities have a large range regarding the ratio of resident to council member. If Council were to be enlarged to 9 members, the number of members per resident would be 94,456 per member; if it were to increase to 11 members, the number of members per resident would be 77,272 per member. An increase to 9 members would be a 29% increase in the size of council, while 11 members would be a 57% increase.

With respect to comparable cities in terms of population, the number of residents per member is the following: San Francisco (11 members), 78,620; Charlotte (11 members), 75,191; and, Fort Worth (9 members), 92,591. Other top U.S. cities with 9 total members include Phoenix, San Diego, Seattle, El Paso and Detroit, and range from 173,669 to 75,235 residents per member. Further, other top U.S. cities with 11 members include San Antonio, San Jose and Austin, and range from 133,622 to 84,712 residents per member.

CITIES AND POPULATION CHANGE

CITY	PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION FROM 2010 CENSUS TO 2015 POPULATION	TOTAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
Detroit	-5%	9
Youngstown	-3%	8
Toledo	-3%	12
Cleveland	-2%	17
Dayton	-1%	5
Akron	-1%	13
Cincinnati	+1%	9
Chicago	+1%	50
Memphis	+1%	13
Philadelphia	+3%	17
Indianapolis	+4%	25
New York	+5%	51
Los Angeles	+5%	15
El Paso	+5%	9
Jacksonville	+6%	19

San Diego	+7%	9
San Francisco	+7%	11
Columbus	+8%	7
Boston	+8%	13
Phoenix	+8%	9
Dallas	+9%	15
San Jose	+9%	11
Nashville	+9%	40
Houston	+9%	17
San Antonio	+11%	11
Washington, D.C.	+12%	13
Fort Worth	+12%	9
Seattle	+12%	9
Charlotte	+13%	11
Denver	+14%	13
Austin	+18%	11

The cities with 8 percent growth in population include Columbus, Boston and Phoenix with an average of 9.6 council members. With the exception of Nashville and Houston as outliers, the median as well as the average number of council members for top cities with 8% *or more* change in population is 11.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of the data reveals the inherent difficulty of extrapolating from these various components to determine potential appropriate modifications to the current size of City Council. Among the top most populous 25 cities in the nation, there are nine with Mayor-Council governance: Los Angeles, Houston, San Diego, Columbus, Seattle, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Boston, and Memphis. The mean or average 2015 population was 1,318,871, number of council members was 11.6, with a 6.3% change in population, and ratio of 109,006 residents per council member.

From another perspective, of the nine top 25 cities with a Mayor-Council structure, the median 2015 population was 684,451, with 13 total council members, an 8% change in population, and 76,050 residents per council member. Top largest cities with Council-Manager forms of government, including Phoenix,

San Antonio, Dallas, San Jose, Austin, Fort Worth, Charlotte, and El Paso had a 2015 median population of 979,369, 11 total council members, 10% change in population, and 89,632 residents per council member.

Several large cities share analogous metrics that would prove useful for an apt comparison to the City of Columbus regarding the size of council. Seattle appears to be the most suitable comparison to Columbus as a city closest in population size and with Mayor-Council governance. While Columbus is ranked 15th among the most populous cities, Seattle is ranked 18th; in the top 30 of the Best Cities Index, and has 9 total council members.

Like Columbus, Phoenix has an 8% growth rate. It has 9 total council members. Unlike Columbus, its system of governance is Council-Manager.

Fort Worth is ranked 16th among the largest cities in the U.S., shares an 800,000 range of population, and has 9 total council members. However, it has a Council-Manager form of government.

Further, in recent years, three cities, Seattle, Detroit, and Austin, underwent changes to the form of their city councils. Seattle and Detroit, each with 9 council members, did not change the size of council; Austin grew from 7 to 11 members.

An emerging trend that has come out in research is that an inverse correlation exists between the size of a city's legislative body and its ranking on the Best Cities Index. There are some exceptions, however, staff has observed that the larger a city's legislature is, the lower on the Best Cities Index it places; with the converse of that statement also being true.

In conclusion, this overview requires a thorough evaluation of diverse variables to determine whether and how the size of Columbus City Council should be modified.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I am available to answer any questions members have.

Additionally, Mr. Bryan Clark, Chief Policy Advisor to the Mayor, is available to answers members' questions. Mr. Clark will also be presenting at the chair's

direction on the several research requests initiated by the Committee related to Issue 1's and elections.

Mr. Clark is assisting with these research requests because of his expertise as a veteran of the Ohio Secretary of State's office as the Director of Policy and Research and his role in revising Title 35 of the Ohio Revised Code; he chaired the Ohio Elections Summit in 2008 and the Ohio Elections Conference in 2009; served as City Council's liaison to the 2014 Charter Review Commission; and has been involved in over two dozen candidate and issue electoral campaigns – including the recent Issue 1 campaign, and Mayor Ginther's campaign.