



MOUNT VERNON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
1 ROOSEVELT SQUARE
MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
CharterReviewCommission@mountvernonny.gov

Charter Commission Members

hailey pilgrim, *Chair*

David Rogers

Kareen Bell

Tamala Boyd

Rosia Blackwell -
Lawrence

Brian Dwyer

Anitra Hadley

Mary Kingsley

Eileen Lambert

Delores Lopes

Geeta Morris

Kevin Morrison

Monica L. Whiting-
Hogans

Erin McGarry

Susan Lally

AGENDA

Monday, October 27, 2025, 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Policy & Procedures Review
 - a. Questions & Comments
 - b. Vote
4. Letter of Summation Review
 - a. Questions & Comments
 - b. Vote
5. Adjournment

- **Draft** -

Mount Vernon Charter Review Commission Summary Statement

To: The Honorable Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor, City of Mount Vernon;

Honorable Members of the Mount Vernon City Council;

City of Mount Vernon Residents and Stakeholders

Date: November 1, 2025

The Mount Vernon Charter Review Commission (**Charter Commission**) extends its sincere gratitude to the Mount Vernon community for its engagement throughout this important process. We extend thanks to the Mayor, Comptroller, City Council, Corporation Counsel, Commissioners, staff, and the residents and stakeholders who contributed thoughtful feedback, attended meetings, and participated in public discussions.

In July of 2025 the Charter Commission released a draft final report that included a recommendation to amend the Charter via two ballot proposals:

- (1) Transitioning Mount Vernon from a Mayor-Council form of government to a Council-Manager model; and,
- (2) Eliminating the elected Comptroller position in favor of an appointed Commissioner of Finance.

After discussion, the Charter Commission voted not to adopt the final report which included the two ballot proposals. While the proposed Charter amendments were not approved to be included on the November ballot, the Charter Commission did conduct and include Charter revision recommendations in its draft final report that can be enacted legislatively. These charter revision recommendations can be found in [Appendix H of the draft final report](#), particularly certain items in the “Green Team” Subcommittee report which the Charter Commission determined could be implemented via legislation during its deliberations.

Many of the potential charter revisions that are included in the subcommittee report were developed in consultation with city leaders and staff, therefore we encourage the Administration

and City Council to review these recommendations and adopt and implement those that will allow the city government to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations.

As current residents and former members of the Charter Commission, we remain available to provide any necessary context and additional information needed as it relates to these recommendations.

Purpose and Accomplishments

The Charter Commission was established to conduct a comprehensive review of the City Charter, to increase governmental effectiveness, accountability, and efficiency.

During its term, the Charter Commission:

- Collaborated with legal and governance experts to compare Mount Vernon’s Charter with others in New York State and beyond.
- Reviewed proposals designed to strengthen fiscal management, ethics, and operational structure in city government.
- Following the July vote, developed a comprehensive set of Policies and Procedures to govern Commission operations — emphasizing fairness, inclusion, and public transparency.

These materials are documented and preserved for use by future Charter Commissions to support continuity, efficiency, and progress.

Lessons and Recommendations

From its work and deliberations, the Commission offers the following guiding recommendations for future bodies:

1. Establish Policies Early — The first action of any new Commission should be to adopt policies and procedures that define expectations, clarify responsibilities, and ensure equitable participation.
2. Foster Open Dialogue — The Chair should promote respectful and inclusive discussion where every commission member has an equal voice and vote.

3. Ensure Shared Decision-Making — All Commission work products should be reviewed by Corporation Counsel and approved by a majority vote before advancement.
4. Encourage Constructive Input — Municipal officials and staff should be invited to share insights regarding Charter challenges without fear of reprisal.

These recommendations reflect our belief that strong processes build strong governance — and that collaboration is essential for future success.

Closing Reflection

The Charter Commission’s work has laid a vital foundation for continued Charter modernization. We urge city leaders to build upon this effort with full transparency and accountability — reviewing subcommittee reports, utilizing the adopted policies and procedures, and advancing appropriate revisions through legislative action where possible.

We remain grateful for the opportunity to serve and encourage our elected officials to move swiftly to review and enact the recommended Charter revisions, where appropriate.

With appreciation,

The 2024-2025 Mount Vernon Charter Review Commission

Reference:

Unadopted/Draft 2024-2025 Mount Vernon Charter Review Commission Report
<https://www.mountvernonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10935/FULL-FINAL-24-25-Charter-Commission-Report-copy-1-?bidId=>