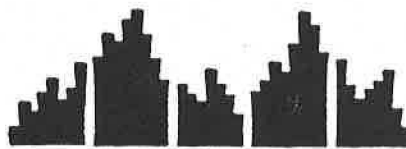

SUMMARY OF REVISED PROPOSALS

June 1989



NYC • CRC

**NEW YORK CITY
CHARTER REVISION
COMMISSION**

11 Park Place Suite 1616
New York, NY 10007
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THE COUNCIL

- To encourage fuller representation of all New Yorkers, the Council would, for the 1993 city elections, be increased in size to 51 members elected from districts with current populations of approximately 140,000. These districts would be about 30 per cent smaller in population than the Council's current 35 districts, bringing Council members into closer contact with their constituents. Smaller districts, if drawn properly, would also enhance the ability of racial and language minorities to elect representatives of their choice.
- The Districting Commission responsible for redrawing Council district lines after each ten-year census would be required to be politically and geographically diverse and to reflect proportionally the city's racial and language minorities. Currently, the mayor appoints all nine members of the commission. Under the new charter, the mayor would appoint seven of 15 members, with five appointed by the majority party of the Council and three appointed by the minority party. The mayor would designate the commission's chair.
- The charter would require the Districting Commission to draw district lines that ensure fair and effective representation of language and racial minorities in the city, and which would keep intact neighborhoods with common interests and histories.

Increased Powers

- Sole authority to modify and approve the city's \$27 billion annual budget—the document that sets New York's spending priorities—would pass to the Council.
- The Council would review for approval or disapproval all zoning changes and a range of other designated decisions of the City Planning Commission, and could hear appeals concerning the proposed location of city facilities when the affected borough president disputes a decision by the Planning Commission (see the summary on "City Planning" for more details).

- The Council would review for approval or disapproval decisions of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
- The Council would have the power to confirm the appointment of the city's commissioner of investigation, and the mayor would be required to give the Council written reasons if he or she wishes to dismiss the commissioner of investigation.

Independent, Democratic and Accountable Rules

- The full Council would elect the chairs of Council standing committees.
- Each standing committee of the Council would be required to conduct comprehensive hearings at least once a year on the operation of the agencies under its jurisdiction.
- The principal sponsor of a proposed local law would be able to require a committee vote on that measure.
- A majority of the members of the Council would be able to vote to discharge a proposed local law from a Council committee.
- **The Council would be required to establish by public adoption of a resolution any system of stipends to Council leaders and committee chairs over and above their city salaries.**
- Each local law passed by the Council would be required to include a "fiscal impact statement" estimating the law's effects on city revenues and expenditures.
- The Council would draft and submit the budget for its own operations to the mayor. The mayor would be required to include it unchanged in the executive budget, but would have the ability to line-item veto any appropriation.