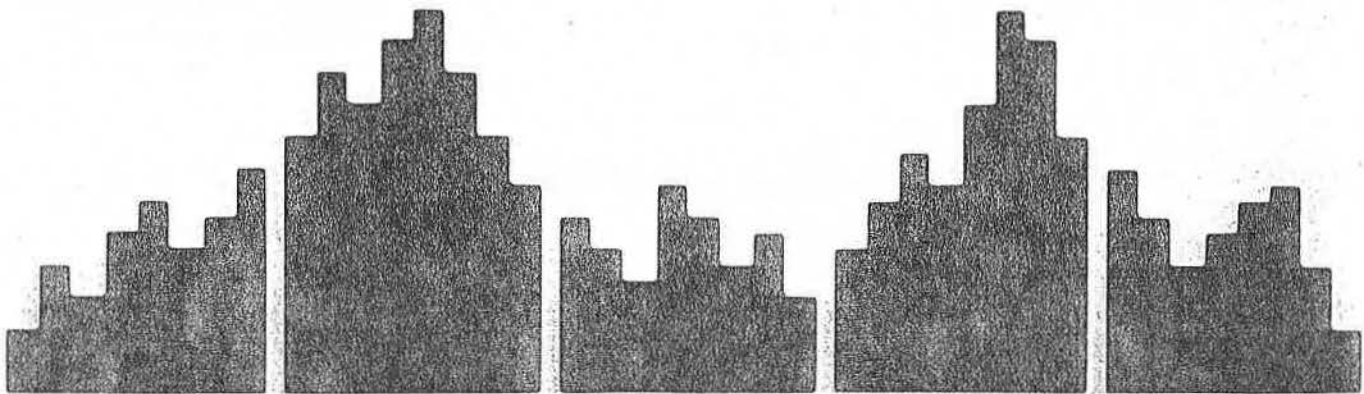


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# THE VOTER'S HANDBOOK ON CHARTER CHANGE



N Y C ■ C R C

## MORE ABOUT THE NEW SYSTEM

### The Mayor

The mayor would continue to be the city's chief executive. The mayor would also:

- Appoint three members of the board that will set contracting policy
- Personally review all agency decisions on city leases or contracts of \$2 million or more
- Would sit on the new franchise and concession committee which would follow procedures approved by the Council.

### The Council

Under the new charter, the Council, which is the most representative branch of government, would assume much more power.

Today, it has 35 members elected from districts with populations as high as 215,000, which is roughly twice as many people as live in the entire city of Albany.

Many groups proposed increasing the size of the Council, believing that a larger Council would bring government closer to the people—as well as help make it more racially, ethnically and politically diverse. Others said that if the Council was too large it would be less efficient and its members would have less clout. The commission considered both views and recommends a Council with 51 members—not as large as some would like, but bigger than others want.

Elections for the new Council would come in 1991 so that the new enlarged Council, based on the 1990 census, would be in place as quickly as possible. An independent 15-member commission would draw the new Council lines. This commission would have borough representation, political diversity and proportional representation of the city's racial and language

# BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW THE POWERS OF

## CURRENT

**Mayor**  
Two votes on Board of Estimate  
Appoints agency heads  
Estimates city revenues  
Proposes entire budget

**City Council President**  
Two votes on Board of Estimate  
Succeeds mayor in case of death or disability  
Reviews recurring complaints about city agencies

**Borough Presidents (5)**  
One vote each on Board of Estimate  
Lobby for borough needs

**Comptroller**  
Two votes on Board of Estimate  
City's chief auditor  
Registers contracts

**Board of Estimate**  
Eight members: mayor, Council president, comptroller, borough presidents  
Final power on important land use matters  
Awards franchises subject to mayor's approval  
Approves budget with City Council  
Approves all non-competitively bid contracts

**City Council**  
35 members  
Passes laws, oversees city agencies  
Approves budget with Board of Estimate

**City Planning Commission**  
Seven members, all appointed by the mayor  
Approves zoning changes, reviews land use matters before approval by Board of Estimate

**Community Boards (59)**  
50 members appointed by each borough president, one-half on recommendation of Council members  
Advisory role in budget, land use and service delivery

New York City's elected officials have a duty to serve all the people—not just members of a particular political party. For that reason, the new City Charter would prohibit all elected officials and major appointed

minorities who are protected by the Voting Rights Act.

The charter would direct this commission to draw districts that are of equal population, that ensure fair representation for racial and language minorities and that don't split neighborhoods with common interests and histories. And, lastly, the districts could not divide communities with similar political bent.

Because of the proposed elimination of the Board of Estimate, for the first time 80% of the power to

decide budget and land use matters would rest with the boroughs outside Manhattan where 80% of the people live.

The Council would also have new rules to make it more open. One rule would say that any system of extra pay for Council leaders must be adopted by the full Council and not by the majority leader alone.

### Borough Presidents

Some people wanted the bor-