

Citizens Organized for Harm Reduction

Reducing the harms associated with drugs and drug policy.

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C.O.H.R.

July 7, 2004

Minneapolis Charter Commission
350 South 5th St.
Room 304
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1382

Citizens Organized for Harm Reduction (COHR) is seeking 4 declarations and clarifications regarding the process by which a committee of electors sponsoring a petition to amend the city charter must abide by in order to legally qualify for the November 2004 Minneapolis City Ballot. These are the following:

1. Minnesota Statute § 410.12 subd. 1 states "proposed charter amendments must be submitted at least 12 weeks before the general election." We seek a declaration from this Commission that timely submission is made if the committee of electors (the petitioners) provides the Charter Commission or its designated body with all then collected petitions by August 10, 2004, and this date excludes the additional time of 25 possible days for certification and additional signature collection (meaning that last possible date for additional signature collection is August 30, 2004).
2. If the committee of electors timely submits all petitions collected as of August 10, 2004 on August 10, 2004, may the committee of electors continue to collect signatures during the 10 day period the initial submissions are certified?
3. If the committee of electors timely submits the petitions but fails to collect the required number of 7,774 valid signatures, is the additional 10 days to collect signatures given to the committee of electors 10 calendar days or 10 business days?
4. Minnesota Statute § 410.12 subd. 3 states that all petitions should be submitted as a single instrument to the Charter Commission. Is the Charter Commission the body to which the committee of electors is to serve the petitions or do we serve the petitions to the Department of Elections?

COHR would appreciate receiving a written answer to these questions.

Thank you,

Jason Samuels
Administrative Coordinator


Aaron Marcus
Chair