

Lee Smith Resigns from Deschutes County Home Rule Charter Committee

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Leland Smith resigned from the Deschutes County Home Rule Charter Committee this morning when he sent an email to Edward Fitch, chair, and other committee members. In his resignation dated July 12, he expressed concerns with decisions made by the committee, and disappointment that the committee did not seriously consider other forms of Home Rule charters.

The other committee members in addition to Fitch are Dana Bratton (Vice Chair), Kathie Eickman, Scott Waters, Leonard Knott, Ted Scholer, Lane Roberts, and Andrea Blum. Jim Carnahan is listed as an alternate non-voting member of the Committee.

The goal of the Committee is to obtain information from a variety of sources to determine the form of a Home Rule Charter, which is to be recommended to the voters at the November election.

Bend Weekly has obtained a copy of the resignation, which is copied below in its entirety.

-----Original Message-----

From: Leland Smith

Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 8:47 AM

Subject: Resignation

Ed, other committee members:

Now that all of the major decisions on the structure of the Home Rule Charter have been made, I have decided to resign from the committee so that Jim Carnahan can be re-appointed as a voting member and can vote for the final charter adoption. With his support for this effort over several years, I feel he should be part of the action at the finish.

I have expressed my concerns with the decisions made by the majority of committee members so will not elaborate them here. It is enough to say I was disappointed that the committee did not seriously consider other forms of Home Rule charters that appear to be working successfully in Benton, Jackson, Josephine, and Umatilla counties. I especially like Jackson County's Home Rule Charter that is only 12 pages long and does not try to change every aspect of County government at the outset. Instead, there seemed to be a predisposition to follow the structures of Washington and Multnomah counties which I do not consider to be models of representative government.

Having said that, I wish the committee well in completing its final tasks.

Lee

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