

Charter Commission

The original charter of Red Wing was granted in 1857 and was a home rule charter. A home rule charter being a constitution that moves responsibility of local government away from the state legislature to the local community. The form of government was a mayor-council government. This form being that the mayor presided over the city council. This original town charter was used until 1887. The Charter Commission is a statutorily required board for each Charter City in the state.

At the council meeting on December 3, 1887 a committee was formed to revise the City Charter. The City charter was changed on February 4, 1887. The form of city government was changed to where the mayor no longer presided over the council. The council appointed a president and vice president from its members. The charter lasted until 1902. In 1902 a Charter commission was formed to draft a new city Charter. This charter held the same form of the previous charter and formed an eleven-member executive board.

This first commission consisted of 14 citizens of Red Wing. In 1904 a new city charter was drafted. The Charter Commission reworked the charter again in 1970. Amendments were made by the commission after the Burnside township was consolidated with the City of Red Wing. The Charter is amended sporadically over the years.

The modern day Charter Commission is a statutorily required board for each Charter City in the state. The commission's purpose is to review the charter on an annual basis and determine whether it should be amended in any way. Occasionally, the City Council will direct specific questions to them. Typically, the Charter Commission reviews the Charter for consistency and clarity. Red Wing Charter Commission consists of not less than seven and no

more than fifteen members. The chair of the commission calls its meetings as needed at least once annually. Each Charter commissioner serves a four-year term.