# Joint County Voters' Pamphlet Measure Argument

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Measure # <u>26-255</u> Orde	er#			
"This information furnished by" (as it sh	nould appear in the Voters' Pamphlet) Name of per	son required ORS 251.355(2)		
Name of person: Dave Dyk (required)	Organization Name: (if applicable)			
Argument paid for or petition provide	ed by:			
Dave Dyk	<sub>Email:</sub> dave@cpnt.con	n		
Name of person/organization paying or submitting p	etition for Measure Argument			
Phone Number: 503-512-0004				
Contact information for authorized	changes:			
Dave Dyk	Email: dave@cpnt.com			
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As I have volunteered with the City of Gresham, I've had the privilege of observing how our local government is working.

Gresham is one of **only two** cities in Oregon (of over 200) that has the requirement for a greater-than-50% majority approval for charter changes. It is unusual, and there is a reason for it.

Key components in our current city charter were established when Gresham was annexing Rockwood and other areas of West Gresham. At that time, a small group of insiders sought to retain power by drafting a charter which would make it possible for them to retain strong control over city government.

The plan worked -- for decades, the charter has been used to protect the power of a small group of conservative community members who have dominated Gresham politics. It has similarities to the Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation in the Southern United States. We need to make some important changes to the charter to ensure that all Gresham residents can be engaged at City Hall. Hopefully, the City Council will have the courage to refer those necessary changes to voters in the future, as recommended by the recent Charter Review Committee.

Please vote "yes" on Measure 26-255. This will help enable a majority of voters to exercise their will in necessary future charter reforms.

Dave Dyk

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Name of person: Helena Guerrero Sulliv. (required)	an Organization Name: (if applicable)			
Argument paid for or petition provided b	у:			
ECRAF	Email: helena@easto	countyrisingaction.org		
Name of person/organization paying or submitting petitio				
Phone Number: 503-473-7881				
Contact information for authorized cha	nges:			
Helena Guerrero Sullivan	Email: helena@eastco	untyrisingaction.org		
Name of person authorized to make changes to Measure	Argument			
Phone Number: 503-473-7881				
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Statement In Favor

Measure 26-255 recommends a simple but important change to our city charter.

Currently, Gresham's City Charter prohibits a majority of our voters from making any changes to our city's charter - our governing document.

This rule was put in place decades ago out of fear of changing times. But as we all know, times change whether we want them to or not.

Every eight years, the City of Gresham is required to appoint citizens to a Charter Review Committee to review our city's governing document - our charter.

The Charter Review Committee can recommend things stay the same, or they can recommend changes to keep up with our city's changing needs.

Those of us on the Charter Review Committee spent hundreds of hours reading and considering our current charter and getting feedback from Gresham residents.

Ultimately, we made several recommendations for updates, including Measure 26-255.

Our current charter makes it harder for our city to adapt to the new realities we face. And is an affront to democracy.

A Yes vote will allow the majority of Gresham residents to decide our city's future and approve changes to our charter.

Please join us in voting Yes on Measure 26-255 to allow majority rule again in Gresham.

For more effective and accountable government please join Gresham's Charter **Review Committee Members and** Vote Yes on Measure 26-255.

Jack Hollis - Charter Review Committee Dana Stroud - Charter Review Committee Joseph Andaya - Charter Review Committee Tim Fier - Charter Review Committee Shelley Denison - Charter Review Committee Amanda Gayken - Charter Review Committee

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#2 Statement in Favor - Measure 26-255

At a time when the need for government accountability and efficiency couldn't be greater, we don't have a City Auditor in Gresham.

Isn't that crazy?

It isn't because Gresham voters didn't ask for an auditor. In fact, a majority of voters supported the addition of a city auditor position over a decade ago.

But because our Charter doesn't allow majority rule, the will of the voters was overturned.

Of the 241 cities in Oregon, Gresham is one of two that don't allow a majority of voters to determine the future of their charter and their city.

Gresham is unique in many wonderful ways, but the lack of majority rule should not be one of them.

Please add your voice and your vote to making this positive change for our city's future.

Vote Yes on Measure 26-255

City Councilors Dina DiNucci, Vince Jones Dixon, and Eddy Morales Representative Zach Hudson Former Gresham City Council Jacquenette McIntire East County Rising Oregon League of Conservation Voters

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Argument paid for or petition provided by	y:			
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Contact information for authorized char	nges:			
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#3 Statement in Favor Measure 26-255

One of the most fundamental principles of our democracy is the concept of "majority rule".

In elections, "majority" means the most votes or more than half of the votes. We make all our city decisions that way, except when it comes to our city charter changes.

To change Gresham's charter, you must have the support of over 60% of voters. That means that a minority set of voters can block the will of the majority. That's not right.

The Gresham Charter Review Committee – a volunteer group of 14 city residents - agreed. And that is why this measure is on your ballot.

Gresham residents deserve the right to make policy changes by a majority vote. If you agree, vote yes on Measure 26-255.

Carol Rulla - Neighborhood Leader