

# Notice of Measure Election

SEL 802

City

26-228

rev 01/18 ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.275, 250.285, 254.095, 254.465

## Notice

Date of Notice

September 6, 2022

Name of City or Cities

City of Portland

Date of Election

November 8, 2022

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the city's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Amends Charter: Changes Portland's government structure and process for electing city officials

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Should Administrator manage city government, 12-member Council (three from each district) make laws, voters elect officials using ranked choice process?

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

See attached.

RECEIVED  
2022 SEP -6 AM 10:11  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

- any measure referred by the city governing body; or
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?  Yes  No

**Authorized City Official** Not required to be notarized.

Name

Mary Hull Caballero

Title

City Auditor

Mailing Address

1221 SW Fourth Avenue Portland, OR 97204

Contact Phone

(503)823-4078

*By signing this document:*

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the city to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and
- I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Mary Hull  
Caballero

Digitally signed by Mary Hull  
Caballero  
Date: 2022.09.01 11:30:51 -07'00'

Signature

Date Signed

## Ballot Title

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Amends Charter: Changes Portland's government structure and process for electing city officials

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Should Administrator manage city government, 12-member Council (three from each district) make laws, voters elect officials using ranked choice process?

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

Charter Commission's proposal to change structure of Portland city government.

Currently, City Council includes one Mayor and four Commissioners elected citywide. Council makes laws; Mayor and Commissioners directly manage bureaus. Voters choose one candidate per office in citywide primary elections with runoff elections if necessary.

If measure is approved:

- City Administrator, supervised by Mayor, manages daily operations, including hiring, firing, and supervising bureau directors
- Council expanded to twelve members; City divided into four geographic districts created by Independent District Commission; three Councilors elected to represent each district
- Council makes laws. Mayor may introduce laws, vote to break ties on non-emergency ordinances
- Independent Salary Commission sets elected officials' salaries
- City elections use "ranked choice voting" process that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference instead of casting a single vote; primary elections eliminated. For citywide offices (Mayor, Auditor), votes tallied in rounds until single candidate receives majority. For Councilors, votes tallied and reallocated in rounds until three candidates in each district meet election threshold.
- Cost estimate: \$900,000 to \$8.7 million annually
- Includes other provisions

NOTE: In accordance with Portland City Code Section 2.04.140 E., the Charter Commission referred measure must be designated on the ballot as, "Referred to the People by the Charter Commission."

### Explanatory Statement

The Portland Charter Commission recommends amending the City Charter to reform the structure and operation of city government. The recommendations, made after months of study and community engagement, are supported by seventeen of the twenty Charter Commission members.

The measure includes three interdependent reforms:

**(1) City Administrator, supervised by Mayor, manages City**

**Currently:** City Council, consisting of Mayor and four Commissioners, exercises legislative and executive powers. Executive power includes managing city bureaus.

**If measure is approved:** City Council continues to exercise legislative power to make laws. A City Administrator hired by Mayor and confirmed by Council exercises executive power to implement laws and manage city bureaus. City Administrator hires, fires, and supervises bureau directors. Mayor is not a member of City Council but may introduce laws and break tie votes on non-emergency ordinances. An Independent Salary Commission of human resource professionals sets elected officials' salaries.

**(2) City Council expanded to 12; three from each of four new geographic districts**

**Currently:** City Council consists of five members—one Mayor and four Commissioners—elected citywide.

**If measure is approved:** City Council expands to 12 members, elected from four new geographic districts, with three Councilors representing each district. An Independent District Commission draws district boundary lines, to be adjusted every decade beginning in 2030 based on census population data.

**(3) City officials to be elected using "ranked choice voting" process**

**Currently:** Qualified Portland voters cast one vote for each candidate for each office in citywide election for Mayor, Auditor, City Council members. If no candidate for an office

receives more than 50% of votes at May primary, the top two candidates compete in November runoff election.

**If measure is approved:** Voters may rank candidates in order of preference, with votes tallied in rounds until there is a winner. Ranked choice voting results in one general election, eliminating primary elections.

Ballot tallying methods depend on the office. For officials chosen at a citywide election—Mayor and Auditor—an “instant runoff” process is used to count ballots in rounds. If no candidate receives over 50% of the votes in the first round, the candidate receiving fewest votes is eliminated, and that candidate’s votes are transferred to each voter’s next-highest ranked candidate. The process continues for as many rounds as necessary until a candidate exceeds a 50% majority. For City Council seats, a “single transferrable vote” method is used. Candidates win when they exceed a threshold set by the number of available positions. Ballots are counted in rounds; any candidate exceeding the threshold is elected, and that candidate’s votes above the threshold are proportionally transferred to other candidates based on voters’ preference. The candidate receiving the fewest votes each round is eliminated, and that candidate’s votes are transferred to other candidates based on voters’ preferences. The process continues for as many rounds as necessary until all positions are filled.

The City Budget Office estimates the cost of implementing the measure is about \$900,000 to \$8.7 million annually, representing about 0.1 to 1.4% of Portland’s discretionary funding.