

# Notice of Measure Election

County

26-238

SEL 801

MA/18: ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.175, 254.103, 254.465

## Notice

Date of Notice

September 7, 2022

Name of County or Counties

Multnomah County

Date of Election

November 8, 2022

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county'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.

See attached

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

See attached

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

See attached

RECEIVED  
2022 SEP - 7 PM 4: 05  
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 county governing body; or
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?

Yes

No

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

Name

Jenny Madkour

Title

County Attorney

Mailing Address

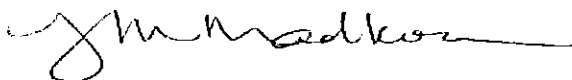
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97214

Contact Phone

(503) 988-3138

*By signing this document:*

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the county 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.



September 7, 2022

Signature

Date Signed

## **Instant Runoff Ranked Choice Voting Ballot Title & Explanatory Statement**

**Caption:** Amends Charter: County officials elected using ranked choice voting; runoff elections eliminated.

**Question:** Should elections for county offices give voters option of ranking candidates in preferred order, with instant-runoff vote-counting process determining results?

**Summary:** Currently, candidates for county offices appear on the May primary election ballot. Voters may vote for one candidate per office; any candidate receiving a majority (more than fifty percent) of votes is elected. If no candidate receives a majority, the top two candidates compete in a runoff election in the November general election. Vacancies during a term of office are filled at the next regular election or a special election.

Under the Charter Review Committee's recommended amendment, county officials (Chair, Commissioners, Auditor, Sheriff) would be elected in one election using an "instant runoff ranked choice voting" process. This process gives voters the option of ranking multiple candidates in order of preference instead of casting a single vote for each office. Votes are counted in rounds, starting with all voters' highest ranked candidate. If no candidate receives a majority in the first round, the candidate receiving the fewest votes is eliminated, and that candidate's votes are reassigned to those voter's next-highest ranked candidate. The process continues until there is a majority winner. Runoff elections are eliminated.

### **Explanatory Statement:**

#### **MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Multnomah County Charter Review Committee recommends amending the county charter to adopt an "instant runoff ranked choice voting" process for elections to county offices (Chair, Commissioners, Auditor and Sheriff). This process gives voters the option to rank multiple candidates in order of preference, with votes instantly tallied in rounds until a candidate receives a majority of votes cast. County officials are elected in a single election, eliminating the need for separate primary and runoff elections.

#### **HOW COUNTY OFFICERS ARE CURRENTLY ELECTED**

Currently, candidates for elected county offices appear on the primary election ballot. Voters may vote for one candidate for each office. A candidate who receives a majority (more than fifty percent) of the votes cast is elected. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates that received the highest number of votes compete in a runoff at the next general election. The candidate who receives a majority at the runoff election is elected. Elections to fill a vacancy that has more than one year remaining in the term of office are held at the next May or November election. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates receiving the most votes compete in a special runoff election called by the board.

## HOW INSTANT RUNOFF RANKED CHOICE VOTING WORKS

Under the charter amendment recommended by the Charter Review Committee, elections for county offices will use an "instant runoff ranked choice voting" process beginning in 2026. This process gives voters the option of ranking multiple candidates in order of preference. Votes are counted in rounds. If no candidate receives more than fifty percent of the 1<sup>st</sup> choice votes in the first round, the candidate receiving fewest votes is eliminate. Ballots that had been counted as votes for the eliminated candidate are instead counted as votes for the candidate who is ranked next on those ballots. The process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes to the next-ranked candidates on those ballots repeats for as many rounds as necessary until a candidate wins by receiving more than fifty percent of the votes for that office.

Because the instant runoff ranked choice voting process results in the election of each county official in a single election, separate primary and runoff elections to fill these offices would be unnecessary. Instead, candidates for county offices would run in one election with the winner chosen using the instant runoff ranked choice voting process. A similar process would be used to fill a vacancy that has more than one year remaining in the term of office. The replacement to serve the remainder of the term would be elected at the next May or November election using the instant runoff ranked choice voting process, so a separate special runoff election would not be necessary.

## TIMING

The current system of electing county officers and filling vacancies would remain in place until instant runoff ranked choice voting is implemented in 2026.