

26-89

# Notice of City Measure Election

**SEL 802**

rev 1/06: ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.275, 250.285, 254.035, 254.465

Name of City Portland

Notice is hereby given on *date of election* May 15, 2007. A measure election will be held in

*name of county or counties* Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington County, Oregon.

The following shall be the ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the city's voters on this date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAPTION** 10 words

Amends Charter: Requires City to periodically review Charter.

**QUESTION** 20 words

Shall Council convene Charter Review Commission at least every 10 years with recommendations submitted to voters in certain circumstances?

**SUMMARY** 175 words

Currently there is no requirement for periodic review of the City Charter. This measure requires the Council to convene a Charter Review Commission at least every 10 years. The first Commission will convene within two years after the effective date of this measure. The Commission will reflect the diversity of the City and will be made up of 20 residents. Each Council member shall nominate four Charter Commission members, subject to confirmation by the Council. The Mayor and Council can request review of specific Charter sections, but the Commission's review is not limited to such sections. The Commission must provide written reports to the Council. Charter amendments supported by at least 15 members of the Charter Commission shall be submitted to the voters of the City by the City Council. Charter amendments proposed by the Charter Commission that are supported by a majority but less than 15 members of the Charter Commission shall be recommendations to the City Council, which may, but is not required to refer such proposed amendments to the voters.

RECEIVED  
07 FEB 22 AM 9:30  
JOHN KAUFFMAN  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

↓ **signature**

The following authorized city official hereby certifies the above ballot title is true and complete, which includes completion of the ballot title challenge process.

signature of authorized city official *not required to be notarized*

2/22/07

date signed

Andrew J. Carlstrom

printed name of authorized city official

City Elections Officer

title

# MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

## Required for all Measures Submitted with Multnomah County Elections

ELECTION DATE May 15, 2007	MEASURE NUMBER 26-89	
BALLOT TITLE CAPTION Amends Charter: Requires City to periodically review Charter.		
NAME OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT Mayor Tom Potter		
NAME OF JURISDICTION PERSON REPRESENTS Portland, Oregon		
E-MAIL mayorpotter@ci.portland.or.us	TELEPHONE NUMBER 503-823-4120	FAX NUMBER 503-823-3588

*Please use space below or attach text on a separate sheet of paper.*

Please see attached document.

WORD/NUMBER COUNT TOTAL (500 word/number limit) 433

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT

3/15/07  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE

This measure is one of four recommendations by the 26 citizen-member Charter Review Commission.

It requires the City Council to convene a panel of citizens at least once every 10 years to review the City Charter and forward their recommendations directly to voters.

### **Background**

In November 2005, Portland City Council appointed a panel of 26 Portlanders to take the first comprehensive look at the City Charter since 1913. This independent volunteer citizen committee – the Charter Review Commission – represented a wide range of ages, ethnicities, experiences and backgrounds.

To facilitate its work, the Commission held over 100 public meetings, collected information from a variety of sources, including review of written reports, invited testimony from legal and academic experts, and public testimony, including:

- Testimony from current and former elected officials of Portland and other municipalities, City employees, community organizations, neighborhood associations and other stakeholder groups and individuals;
- Testimony of outside experts in government studies and public administration; and
- A survey of comparably-sized cities.

### **What does the measure do?**

Currently, the City Council decides when, or if, citizens can review the Charter, the document that spells out the laws and procedures that define how the city operates. Under the current system any changes proposed by citizens must be approved by the City Council and then referred to voters.

The measure:

- Provides more citizen oversight by requiring the City Council to convene a panel of no more than 20 citizens who are representative of the entire city to review the Charter at least every ten years.
- Establishes a process that allows the citizen commission to put recommendations directly before voters without City Council approval.

Elected officials would be excluded from being members of the Charter Commission. And, while the City Council can request the review of specific Charter sections, the Commission would be free to review any part of the Charter it chooses.

Each Council member would nominate four Charter Commission members, subject to confirmation by the entire Council. Charter amendments supported by at least 15 members of the Charter Commission would be submitted directly to the voters.

The Portland Metro area is expected to grow by 1 million residents in the next few decades. The Charter Review Commission recommended periodic review in order to permit citizens to periodically determine whether the City's governance reflected the changing needs of the city and its residents. The Commission also said that periodic review would continue Portland's tradition of civic engagement and citizen involvement in the workings of their government.

The first review would take place within two years of the passage of this measure.