

Proposed Charter Amendment for Initiative Petition

Add the following Section to CHAPTER 2 – GOVERNMENT, ARTICLE 1. THE COUNCIL, of the Portland City Charter:

Section 2-129. Participatory Budgeting.

To further public engagement and democratic involvement in city spending, the City must create by ordinance a participatory budgeting program open to all residents, consistent with the Oregon Local Budget Law. Annual funding for the program must be no less than 1% of the City's General Fund discretionary ongoing resources, and the public's funding allocation decisions must be binding. The program must begin operating no later than July 2026.

Proposed Ballot Title, Caption, Question, and Explanation/Summary

Ballot Title: Portland Participatory Budgeting

Caption: Requires City to implement participatory budgeting open to all residents.

Question: Shall the City create a participatory budgeting program open to all residents and annually funded from the General Fund?

Explanation/Summary: Currently, the City has no participatory budgeting program. Under the proposed amendment, the City Council be required to create by ordinance a participatory budgeting program consistent with Oregon Local Budget Law whereby Portland residents would make binding decisions to allocate a portion of General Fund discretionary resources. The proposal would require the City to annually set aside at least 1% of the City's General Fund discretionary resources for reallocation to City bureaus and services through a participatory budgeting process. The participatory budgeting program must begin operation by July 2026. Using the latest forecast information ([April 2023](#)), 1% of General Fund discretionary resources would fund the participatory budgeting program at \$7.55 million in FY 2025-26, \$7.83 million in FY 2026-27, and \$8.11 million in FY 2027-28.

Additional information for City Reviewers

The above charter amendment submitted for a proposed initiative petition is the same amendment crafted by the Charter Commission in 2022 with public input and review by the City Attorney and City Budget Director. For confirmation consult Maja Haium, Deputy City Attorney (maja.haium@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-3037) or Julia Meier, Charter Commission Staff (Julia.Meier@portlandoregon.gov).

We used precise language prepared by Charter Commission staff and the Deputy City Attorney (see page 28 of [Portland Charter Commission Final Report](#), January 2023) to craft the above Charter Amendment Summary/Explanation. However, we have updated the budget forecast with the [April 2023 General Fund Forecast](#). Also original fiscal impact statement assembled Charter Commission Staff and/or Budget Director provided the General Fund forecast for the FY 25-26 despite the fact that the participatory budgeting program mandated by the Charter Commission's charter amendment would not begin until July 2026. The City economist Peter Hulseman (peter.hulseman@portlandoregon.gov, 503-865-6331) indicated that this was probably a mistake. Therefore, the description we have submitted above includes forecasts for FY 25-26, FY26-27, and FY 27-28 from the April 2023 General Fund Forecast.