

## **Explanatory Statement**

The volunteer Charter Commission recommended amending the City Charter to add the Independent Portland Elections Commission.

Currently, the Independent Portland Elections Commission is established by code, which can be amended by City Council.

Under the Commission's recommendation, the Independent Portland Elections Commission would be added to the Charter, which can only be amended by an affirmative vote of a majority of voters. Currently, the Elections Commission only implements the City's public financing of elections program. Under the Commission's recommendation, the Elections Commission would also be able to implement any other election or campaign finance-related law or program delegated to the Commission by the Council or Auditor. The Elections Commission will continue to consist of nine City residents appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council. City Council will continue to determine and provide the Election Commission's budget.