



Proposed Section 2-129 Participatory Budgeting Program Ballot Title

CAPTION (10 words)

Amends Charter: Portland residents allocate for two percent of city's annual discretionary budget.

QUESTION (20 words)

Should Portland create Participatory Budgeting Program allowing residents to decide how to allocate two percent of City's annual discretionary budget?

SUMMARY (175 words)

Starting January 2025, the City Administrator develops proposed budget under Mayor's direction, which is then reviewed, amended and adopted by City Council following public hearings.

If approved, this charter amendment requires the City Council to establish a Participatory Budgeting Program dedicated to increasing public engagement in city spending by allowing residents to direct spending of portion of City budget, within parameters. Program funded annually, beginning July 2026, in amount not less than 2% of General Fund previous fiscal year's discretionary ongoing expenses (approximately \$15.11 million for FY 2026-27). First Participatory Budgeting process begins no later than July 2027.

The Participatory Budgeting process must include:

- A Steering Committee to develop and oversee a transparent and equitable process
- Project idea collection
- Project review for feasibility
- Submission of qualified projects for binding vote open to all Portland residents
- Implementation by City of winning projects
- Ongoing program evaluation by Steering Committee to improve outcomes and participation.
- Independent performance audit by City Auditor every five years
- Compliance with Oregon Local Budget Law