



Independent District Commission & District Maps



OVERVIEW

Ballot Measure 26-228, if passed, includes the creation of four new geographic districts for Portland's City Council. A district process would be undertaken by an Independent District Commission with the time and resources to engage community.

If the measure passes, the Independent District Commission would prepare and adopt a district plan for dividing the City into four districts for the election of City Councilors.

If passed, the Independent District Commission would:

- Consist of 13 Portland residents who represent a diversity of race, gender, age and geography.
- Be seated by January 31, 2023, and adopt a district map by September 1, 2023.
- Be required to hold a city-wide public hearing early in the process to engage Portlanders in district criteria.
- Be required to hold at least two public hearings in each proposed district before voting to adopt a districting plan.
- Ensure district maps are consistent with state and federal laws and criteria.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Portland Proposed Measure regarding the structure of city government?

In November voters will have the opportunity to decide whether to amend the City Charter to reform the structure and operation of city government. The proposed ballot measure includes the creation of four new geographic districts with each district electing three councilors, for an expanded 12-member city council.

If measure passes, who will create the district map?

If the measure passes, the measure calls for a district process that would be undertaken by an independent community body with the time and resources to engage Portlanders. If the measure passes, a 13-member geographically diverse Independent District Commission would be seated by January 31, 2023, and would be responsible for preparing and adopting a district map by September 1, 2023.



Independent District Commission & District Maps

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

If the measure passes, what is the criteria for a district map?

If the measure passes, the district map shall be consistent with state and federal laws. The Independent District Commission would be required to ensure that each district is, as nearly as practical, contiguous (one connected piece), compact, utilizes existing geographic or political boundaries, keeps communities of common interest together, is connected by transportation links, and is of equal population.

If the measure passes, no district may be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent elected official, or another person. No district may be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group. Additional criteria may be considered, consistent with state and federal law.

If the measure passes, what is the authority of the Independent District Commission?

If the measure passes, the Independent District Commission would prepare and adopt a districting plan for dividing the City into four districts for the election of City Councilors. The plan would include a map and a description of the districts. The vote of at least nine members of the Independent District Commission would be required to adopt the districting plan. A majority vote of the Independent District Commission would be required for all other actions.

If the measure passes, the first Independent District Commission would adopt its plan by September 1, 2023. If the Independent District Commission adopts a plan, no further action by City Council would be required, and the plan is final. If the Independent District Commission has not adopted a plan after taking two votes, the most recent

version of the plan voted on by the Independent District Commission passes to the City Council for its consideration and adoption. The plan would be effective when the Independent District Commission or the City Council files it with the City Elections Officer.

If the measure passes, the Independent District Commission may require bureaus and departments of the City to provide technical assistance. The Independent District Commission has a budget as provided by the City Council.

If the measure passes, what is the district process timeline?

If voters pass the proposed measure in November, the district process would begin immediately.

- The Independent District Commission would be seated by January 31, 2023.
- The district map would be adopted by September 1, 2023.
- District-based elections would be in place for the November 2024 election.

If voters do not pass the proposed ballot measure, Portland's mayor and four city commissioners would be continued to be elected citywide.

If the measure passes, who will serve on the Independent District Commission?

If passed, the Independent District Commission would consist of 13 residents of Portland who represent a diversity of race, gender, age, and geography. Elected or appointed City officials and employees, and candidates for elected City office who have filed and been qualified to the ballot by the City Elections Office, would be prohibited from serving on the Independent District Commission. The mayor appoints members of the Independent District Commission, subject to confirmation by the City Council.



Independent District Commission & District Maps

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

If the measure passes, how will the Independent District Commission engage the community?

If the measure passes, the Independent District Commission would be required to hold a city-wide public hearing early in the process to engage Portlanders in district criteria and then they would be required to hold at least two public hearings in each proposed district before voting to adopt a districting plan. The Independent District Commission would be required to make its plan available to the public for inspection and comment not less than one month before the public hearings in each proposed district.

If the measure passes, how can Portlanders help develop the district maps?

If the measure passes, the City would immediately recruit the Independent District Commission, engage a demographer to assist the Independent District Commission in establishing district maps, and hold required public hearings. The public is

encouraged to apply for the Independent District Commission, follow its progress and attend the public meetings.

If the measure passes, what would future districting look like?

If the measure passes, subsequent redistricting would be tied to census population updates every ten years, beginning in 2030. Future independent redistricting bodies would be confirmed and in place by March 31 every year following the census. The districting commission's term ends upon the adoption of a districting plan, which must be completed by September 1 of that same year.

No change in the boundary of a district caused by annexation to the City or withdrawal of an area from the City may terminate the office of any Council Member. Upon an annexation or withdrawal, the mayor may, but need not, initiate the creation of an Independent District Commission to redraw district boundaries. Upon an annexation with no adjustment to a district boundary, the annexed area becomes part of that existing district with which it is most contiguous.

