

Proposed Ballot Measure Regarding the Structure of City Government



COMING NOVEMBER 2022

THE PROCESS



About the Portland City Charter

A City Charter is like the city's constitution. It is the guiding document that defines how to vote for city elected officials and sets out their roles and responsibilities, among many other things.

Why Propose a Change to the Charter Now?

City Council must appoint a 20-person Commission at least once every 10 years to review and suggest changes to the City Charter. The Charter Commission has a unique authority: If 15 or more of the 20 commissioners agree on a change, then those changes go directly to the ballot.

How Did the Commission Work?

The Charter Commission spent over a year studying alternatives to the current form of government and leading a community engagement process with people across the city. See the sidebar for more.

The Proposed November Ballot Measure

The Charter Commission advanced a proposed ballot measure for Portland voters to consider in November 2022. The proposed measure includes three interconnected changes to Portland's city government. If passed, the proposed measure would:

1. Allow voters to rank candidates in order of their preference, using ranked choice voting.
2. Create four new geographic districts with three members elected to represent each district, expanding the City Council to a total of 12 members.
3. Replace the commission form of government and create a system in which the City Council focuses on setting policy and a city administrator is hired to run the city's day-to-day operations with the mayor.

If voters do not pass the proposed ballot measure, there would be no changes to Portland's form of government or election system, and the annual cost of between \$90,000 and \$8.7million would not be incurred.

 **4,022**
SURVEY RESPONSES

 **1,330**
PEOPLE RECEIVING
MONTHLY EMAILS

 **26**
COMMUNITY
LISTENING SESSIONS
(partner & Commission hosted)

 **580**
PARTICIPANTS AT
LISTENING SESSIONS
(partner & Commission hosted)

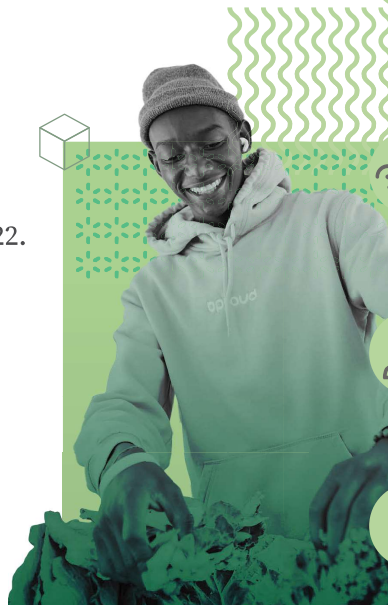
 **1,658**
PUBLIC COMMENTS
RECEIVED

 **16**
HOURS OF VERBAL
PUBLIC COMMENT

 **87**
PUBLIC MEETINGS &
HEARINGS

 **127**
CHARTER REVIEW BRIEFINGS
& PRESENTATIONS

 **34**
POLICY DISCUSSIONS
with community organizations

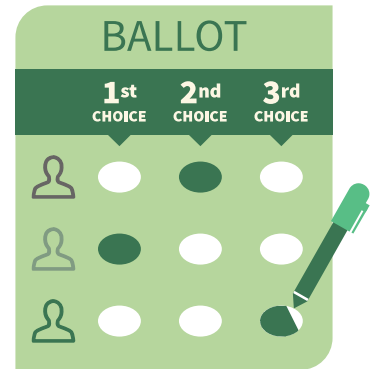


1

If Passed, Voters Would Rank Candidates by Preference

In a ranked choice voting system, voters may rank candidates in order of preference, with votes tallied in rounds until there is a winner. Ranked choice voting results in one general election, eliminating primaries.

As of November 2021, 43 jurisdictions in the U.S. used ranked choice voting in their most recent elections, and more than 50 jurisdictions are projected to use it in their next election. Communities that have switched to ranked choice voting, including Benton County in Oregon, have had an increase in voter participation.



RANKED CHOICE BALLOT

2

If Passed, There Would Be Four New Geographic Districts

Portland has more than three times as many people as it did in 1913, yet Portland City Council has not grown in size or representation in over 100 years. Currently, all four city councilors are elected at-large across the entire city, which means a candidate for any seat can live anywhere within Portland.

The proposed system would create four geographic districts. Three councilors would represent each district, bringing the total number of City Council from four to 12 people. The mayor and auditor would still be elected at-large.



4 DISTRICTS WITH 3 REPRESENTATIVES EACH

3

If Passed, the Commission Form of Government Would Be Replaced

Portland is the last remaining large city in the United States with a commission form of government. If the measure passes city councilors would no longer manage bureaus. Instead, they would focus on developing laws and policies, engaging constituents, and increasing community representation in decision-making. The mayor would have executive authority over city business, collaborating and delegating responsibilities to a city administrator.

If the measure passes, annual costs - are estimated between \$900,000 to \$8.7 million or between 0.1% and 1.4% of the city general fund discretionary resources. Annual ongoing cost would begin in 2025. The range of the cost estimate is dependent on policy decision making outside of the charter scope. For example, the Salary Commission would set the salaries of elected officials.



CITY COUNCILORS WOULD FOCUS ON LEGISLATION & POLICY

This information, except for the website link(s), was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.



Learn More

 portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission

 charterreview@portlandoregon.gov



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