



Elections and Ranked-Choice Voting

Changes to election code

The April 2023 changes to Portland's election code include:

- **Eliminate candidate primaries.**
- **Eliminate special elections to fill vacancies.**
- **Establish ranked-choice voting to elect the Mayor, Auditor and Councilors.**
- **Require write-in candidates to certify their candidacy seven or more days prior to the election.**

In November 2022, Portland voters approved Ballot Measure 26-228 that directs the City of Portland to implement these three connected changes by Jan. 1, 2025:

- Allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference, using ranked-choice voting.
- Establish four geographic districts, with three city council members elected to represent each district – expanding city council to a total of 12 members.
- Establish the city council to focus on setting policy and engaging with community, transitioning day-to-day oversight of bureaus to a mayor elected citywide and a professional city administrator.

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 311 (503-823-4000), for Relay Service & TTY: 711.



Portland Transition

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Electing City Councilors

In November 2024, the new Portland City Council will be elected by a form of ranked-choice voting known as single transferable vote. This is sometimes called proportional ranked-choice voting. The number of votes, or the threshold, needed to win is determined by the number of seats to be filled. Any candidate that crosses the threshold is elected. If a candidate gets more votes than they need to win, those additional votes are proportionally distributed to the next candidate ranked on each of those ballots. If no candidate gets enough votes to win, the candidate in last place is eliminated. Voters who ranked that candidate as their top choice will have their votes transferred to their next choice. These steps continue until all seats are filled.

Videos explaining this process are available at: portland.gov/transition/portland-transition-election-code

Electing the Mayor and Auditor

In 2024, voters will also elect a new Mayor and Auditor using a form of ranked-choice voting known as instant runoff. Each ballot counts as one vote for the highest-ranked candidate. If no candidate receives a majority of votes after the initial round of tabulation, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who ranked that candidate as their top choice will have their votes transferred to their next choice. This process continues until a candidate receives more than half of the votes in a round of counting.

How to run for office

For the November 2024 election, Portlanders will use ranked-choice voting to elect a mayor, an auditor, and 12 city councilors. Three councilors will represent each new geographic voting district. Those interested in running for office must file their candidacy between June 5 and Aug. 27, 2024. Visit the [Portland elections office website](#) to understand all the steps to run for office.

Timeline

2022

November 2022: Voters pass charter reform, including ranked-choice voting.

December 2022 – February 2023: City of Portland and Multnomah County research and develop necessary code changes.

2023

March 2023: Public comment phase for proposed code changes.

April 2023: Portland City Council amends election code.

Educating voters on ranked-choice voting

The biggest change voters will experience is their ability to rank candidates for City contests in order of the voters' preference. Candidates will be listed in a grid, and voters can rank up to six candidates for each contest. Voters will still receive their ballot and return it by mail or in a drop box.

The City and Multnomah County are coordinating voter education to build awareness of the new ballot design and voting rules.

Auditor (Rank up to 6 candidates but do not rank any candidate more than once and do not use the same rank more than once)						
Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Candidate 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate 4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate 6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Candidate 7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate 8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

County partners make the switch to ranked-choice voting possible

In Oregon, cities and counties coordinate to make local elections happen. Most Portlanders live in Multnomah County, while a few live in Clackamas and Washington Counties. The City is working with all three counties to make the transition to ranked-choice voting.

The City of Portland Elections Office provides candidate education, receives and processes candidate and measure filings, and refers qualified candidates to the relevant county for inclusion on ballots. The Counties send and receive ballots to voters which are then counted at a centralized location. Once ballot tabulation is completed, the City certifies election results, and each elected candidate is provided with a certificate.

Additional information to remember



Ballots challenged because of signature issues may still be remedied and counted up to 21 days after Election Day.



Going forward, Portland's leaders will be chosen, on a rotating basis, during November general elections in even-numbered years.

2024

Spring 2023 – Summer 2024: Counties update voting systems.


Summer 2023 – Ongoing: Educate voters on ranked-choice voting.


June 5 to Aug. 27, 2024: Window to file for candidacy.

November 2024: Voters cast ballots using ranked-choice voting.



Portland Transition

 Videos explaining proportional ranked-choice voting: portland.gov/transition/portland-transition-election-code/ranked-choice-voting

 Multnomah County's page on elections: multco.us/elections

 Latest updates on the transition: portland.gov/transition/updates