

34-339

SEL 802

rev 01/18 ORS 250.035, 250.041,
250.275, 250.285, 254.095, 254.465

Notice of Measure Election City

Notice

Date of Notice

08/08/2024

Name of City or Cities

City of Forest Grove

Date of Election

11/05/2024

Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the city's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

City of Forest Grove Home Rule Charter

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall the City of Forest Grove amend the existing charter?

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

This measure would update the city's existing home rule charter. The Oregon Constitution gives city voters the right to adopt and amend charters. Charters grant legal authority to cities and assign duties to city officials. Forest Grove voters last amended the current charter in 2009.

The proposed charter amendments include updating the description of the mayor's duties (section 8); updating the reasons that may create a Council vacancy and clarifying and updating the process for appointments to vacant positions (sections 31 and 32); amending the start date of each officer's term and procedures for Council action (sections 16, 19, 22 and 29); and removing the city manager residency requirement (section 33).

This measure was referred to the voters by the City Council based on recommendations of the Charter Review Committee.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the city governing body; or

→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?

 Yes

 No

Authorized City Official Not required to be notarized.

Name

Mariah Woods

Title

City Recorder

Mailing Address

PO Box 326, Forest Grove OR, 97116

Contact Phone

503-992-3235

By signing this document:

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the city to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and

→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature

Date Signed

8/8/2024

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

If approved, this measure would amend the City's current charter.

The new charter would update the current charter that Forest Grove voters adopted in 2009. The proposed charter amendments are based on the work of the City's 2023-2024 Charter Review Committee. The Committee included the following individuals:

Elysha Johnson, Chair
Adolph Valfre, Vice Chair
Bryan Dennis
Isaac Echeverria
Wolanda Groombridge
LaAna Littlefield
Katherine MacDonald
Tammi McLaughlin
Tacy Steele
Dale Thaler

The City Council approved submitting the amended charter to voters for approval.

The Oregon Constitution gives city voters the right to adopt home rule charters. A charter grants legal authority to a city government and defines the roles and responsibilities of city officials.

Specific amendments from the existing charter to new charter include:

- Updating the description of the mayor's duties (section 8) to replace the description of the mayor as serving as the City's "political head" with the mayor serving as the "primary representative of the Council for the City." This amendment is not intended to substantively impact the mayor's duties, but rather to better reflect the mayor's role as an apolitical Council and city representative.
- Updating the reasons that may create a Council vacancy to include any conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense (section 31).
- Clarifying and updating the process for appointments to vacant positions (section 32). These proposed amendments include allowing any remaining Councilors to fill vacant Council positions even if the number of remaining Councilors falls below the charter's quorum and voting requirements.

Because the current charter does not address this issue, if the number of remaining Councilors falls below the quorum (or four seated Councilors), state law requires the City either conduct a special election to seat enough Councilors to reach the quorum or, if there are no remaining Councilors, state law requires the Washington County Board of Commissioners to appoint four Councilors. These solutions under state law create delay and expense for the City, and may impact local control. The proposed charter amendments allow the remaining Councilors to immediately appoint a sufficient number of Councilors to conduct other city business.

The proposed amendments also limit an appointed Councilor's term length only to the next general election, rather than the remaining term of the vacating Councilor.

- Replacing the word "disability" with "a physical or mental impairment" to clarify when the Council may appoint a Councilor pro tem for a member who is unable to attend Council meetings (section 32).
- Removing the city manager residency requirement to allow for more flexibility in the recruitment and selection of city managers (section 33).
- Amending the start date of each officer's term and procedures for Council action (sections 16, 19, 22 and 29).

Full text of the proposed amendments and committee report are available at:
www.ForestGrove-OR.gov