

RESOLUTION NO. 2511

A RESOLUTION TO REFER AMENDMENT OF CITY CHARTER CHAPTER VI ELECTIONS, SECTION 23 TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY.

1. Only the voters of the City of Troutdale can approve amendments to the Charter of the City of Troutdale.
2. Members of the community have shown interest in changing voting to a top three (3) system in which all candidates run against each other, and those receiving the greatest number of votes are elected.
3. The Council has discussed and heard from citizens about benefits and detriments of various processes for electing councilors.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF TROUTDALE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Proposed Charter Amendment. If a majority of eligible voters vote “yes” on the following measure, Chapter VI, Elections, Section 23 of the Troutdale City Charter will be amended as follows:

Section 23. ELECTIONS: Both state and local law govern the conduct of city elections. Candidates for City Councilor positions shall not run for specific positions, but all candidates shall run against all others. Electors may cast the number of votes that is equal to the number of positions to be filled, but only one per candidate. The three candidates receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to fill the three open, full-term positions in each general election. Then, any positions for two year terms shall be filled with the candidates receiving the next greatest numbers of votes, in decreasing order, until all positions are filled.

Section 2. Referral. The ballot title attached as Attachment A and the above text shall be filed with the City Elections Officer and referred to the legal voters of the City of Troutdale, Multnomah County, Oregon at the general election on November 3, 2020.

Section 3. Election. November 3, 2020 is designated as the date for holding the election for the purpose of voting on this measure. The precinct for the election shall be all of the territory within the corporate limits of the City of Troutdale, and the election will be conducted by the Multnomah County Elections Department by mail.

Section 4. Publication. The City Elections Officer is directed to publish notice of receipt of the ballot title under standard procedures and in compliance with ORS 250.275(5).

Section 5. Filing with County. The City Elections Officer shall file the ballot title with the county clerk as required by ORS 254.095 and include the proposed measure in the statement of city measures to be voted on.

Section 6. Explanatory Statement. The Explanatory Statement for the measure on Attachment B shall be submitted for inclusion in the voters' pamphlet as provided in ORS 251.345.

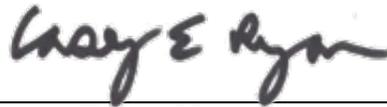
Section 7. No Position. The City Council takes no position in favor of, nor opposing this proposed measure.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

YEAS: 5

NAYS: 2 Councilor Ripma, Councilor White

ABSTAINED: 0



Casey Ryan, Mayor

Date: July 15, 2020



Sarah Skroch, City Recorder

Adopted: July 14, 2020

Attachment "A" to Resolution #2511

Measure No. 20-_____

Ballot Title:

A. Caption (10 words allowed, 10 total)

Amends charter: city councilor candidates run against all councilor candidates

B. Question (20 words allowed, 18 total)

Shall Troutdale Charter require election of councilors from one group of all candidates, each running against all others?

C. Summary (175 words allowed, 173 total)

This measure would amend City Charter, changing the election process for city councilors. Three councilor positions are filled each general election, for four year terms. Occasionally two year terms are also filled.

Measure requires candidates to run against all other candidates in one group. Voters cast one vote per open position, maximum one vote per candidate. Three candidates receiving most votes win election to four year terms. Any two year terms are filled with candidate(s) receiving next highest numbers of votes.

Current process requires candidates to run for a particular position. Sometimes a candidate runs unopposed, sometimes a new candidate runs against an incumbent, and sometimes a group runs for a particular position.

The Oregon Constitution gives city voters the right to adopt, amend and revise their city charter and the structure of their city government. Troutdale charter grants legal authority to City and assigns duties and responsibilities to city officers. Troutdale voters adopted the current charter in 1994, and have amended it several times.

The measure would affect elections after November 2020.

Measure No. 20-____ Explanatory Statement

The Oregon Constitution gives city voters the right to adopt, amend, and revise the City Charter. Troutdale voters adopted the current City Charter in 1994. It has been amended several times since then.

Under current processes, City Councilor positions are numbered. Three of the six City Councilor positions are filled each general election (November of even numbered years). At the same time, any two-year partial terms that result from councilors having been appointed to fill vacancies, are filled. These provisions will not be changed by the proposed measure, and are in Charter sections 9, 10, 13 and 24.

Under the current process that this proposed measure would change, candidates must file for a particular numbered Councilor position, sometimes running against an incumbent, sometimes unopposed, and sometimes against other candidate(s) for that specific position.

This proposed measure would amend the current City Charter Chapter VI Elections, section 23 to read as follows:

Section 23. ELECTIONS: Both state and local law govern the conduct of city elections. **Candidates for City Councilor positions shall not run for specific positions, but all candidates shall run against all others. Electors may cast the number of votes that is equal to the number of positions to be filled, but only one per candidate. The three candidates receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to fill the three open, full-term positions in each general election. Then, any positions for two year terms shall be filled with the candidates receiving the next greatest numbers of votes, in decreasing order, until all positions are filled.**

This measure would change the election process for city councilors and insert language that all candidates shall run against all other candidates in one group. Those candidates receiving the most votes win election. Ordinarily, the top three will be elected, but on occasion, due to vacancies filled by appointment, the top four or more candidates may be elected from the group.

Electors may cast one vote for any candidate, up to the total number of positions to be filled. Those candidates receiving the greatest number of votes win the full four year terms, and if shorter terms are filled, the candidates receiving the next-greatest number will be elected for the remaining two years of a term.

The City Council sought review of this type of election process (sometimes called “top three”) from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC opposed referral of a proposal such as this, after an open public meeting and public feedback.

The City Council adopted this Explanatory Statement, but has taken no position favoring nor opposing this proposed measure.