

Portland Ballot Measure 26-228 Resources

Election Day: November 8, 2022

The resources below were compiled by [SMILE's](#) Communications Co-Chair Rachel Weber. This list of resources is intended to provide information about the ballot measure that aims to change Portland's structure of city government and voting. This list of resources is NOT an endorsement for or against the ballot measure.

General Voting Resources (Oregon)

- [Register to vote](#) by October 18.
- Visit the [Oregon Secretary of State website](#) for additional information and resources.

Portland Charter Commission

- The [Charter of the City of Portland, OR](#) passed in 1942 and has been revised in part by amendments through December 18, 2020.
- Every 10 years, the City Council convenes a Charter Commission to review and recommend amendments to the City of Portland Charter (City's Constitution). The Charter Commission is an independent body that sets its own scope of work.
- You can learn more about Charter Review and meet your current charter review commissioners [here](#). Please note that there are 17 commissioners currently listed; there were a total of 20 commissioners that voted on the proposed measure.
- A [brief fact sheet](#) is available as a very high-level summary of the Charter Commission, their process, and the ballot measure.
- The 20-member Charter Commission voted 17 (for) – 3 (against) to advance the measure to November's ballot.
 - Three charter review commissioners (David Chen, David Knowles, Vadim Mozyrsky) voted no on advancing the measure to the ballot; [this video](#) shows those no votes and their reasoning behind them.

Ballot Measure 26-228

- The ballot measure includes the following proposed changes to city government; **note that the proposed changes are a package deal and voters will be voting on the package, not the individual parts of the package:**
 - Allow voters to rank candidates in order of their preference, using ranked choice voting

- Create four new geographic districts with three members elected to represent each district, expanding the City Council to a total of 12 members
- Replace the commission form of government and create a system where the City Council would focus on setting policy and a city administrator would be hired to run the city's day-to-day operations with the mayor
- More comprehensive information, including printable info and videos, is available [here](#).
- The Woodstock and Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Associations hosted a panel discussion on 10/5/2022 that included advocates both for and against the ballot measure. That [panel is available on YouTube](#).
- Melanie Billings-Yun (for) and Vadim Mozyrsky (against) spoke and answered questions at the October 5th SMILE General Meeting; meeting minutes and a recording of the meeting are currently being processed and will be available on the [SMILE website](#) soon!

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

- Measure 26-228 would allow voters in future city elections to rank candidates in order of preference. Rank choice voting (RCV) is an alternative voting mechanism that would be new to Portland.
- **Single member RCV** would elect Portland's Mayor and Auditor; a candidate wins with 50% of the vote
- **Three-member RCV** would elect Portland's City Council; each candidate needs at least 25% to win one of the 3 seats.
- The form of RCV being proposed is called **Proportional RCV** or **Single Transferable Vote RCV**
 - [FairVote.org](#) has a nice description of Proportional RCV/Single Transferable RCV.
 - The [Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center](#) has nice descriptions and videos on both [single-winner and multi-winner RCV](#).
- Keep an eye on the [Willamette Week](#) for articles on RCV as they cover the election:
 - [This article](#) describes and includes a video of a debate between proponents and critics of the ballot measure.
 - [This article](#) takes the reader through a hypothetical example of how the single transferable vote RCV would work.
- An electoral reform group in the United Kingdom shared [this history of single transferable RCV in the United States](#) that you may find interesting.
- [Bike Portland](#) also provided some information and examples related to RCV that you might find helpful.
- The [Pew Research Center](#) has covered alternative voting systems, included RCV.
- The [Cornell College of Engineering](#) provides information about RCV as it relates to (the prevention of) gerrymandering.

- [Wikipedia has a page on Single Transferable RCV](#); references are cited, but note that Wikipedia entries may be edited by anyone. This page provides details about where in the United States and across the globe this voting system is used.

Political Action Committees

- **[Partnership for Common Sense Government](#) (Against the ballot measure)**
 - A variety of articles and letters to the editor are available on the PAC's [News page](#).
 - [The Oregonian's editorial endorsement](#) to vote "no" on the measure and an editorial in [The Southeast Examiner by State Representative Rob Nosse](#) are listed among the news items.
- **[Portland United for Change](#) (For the ballot measure)**
 - A variety of articles and letters to the editor are available on the PAC's [News page](#).
 - The [PAC's FAQ page](#) contains a lot of detailed information about the ballot measure.
- **[Ulysses](#) (Against the ballot measure)**
 - Mingus Mapps is the founder of the Ulysses PAC and a current Portland City Commissioner; he has proposed an [alternative ballot measure](#) that has the potential to be on a future ballot should measure 26-228 be voted down in November.
 - The [Willamette Week](#) and [Portland Mercury](#) both covered the alternative charter reform measure.