

Proposed City of La Grande City Charter Amendment Ballot Measure November 5, 2024 General Election - Measure Number 31-121

In November 2024, City of La Grande voters will have the opportunity to consider amendments to the La Grande City Charter. If passed by voters, the proposed amendments would remove the position numbers for the Mayor and City Councilors, would eliminate the Primary Election, would eliminate elections to fill mid-term vacancies with two or more years remaining, and would clarify language.

► **If Measure Passes: Amends language in the City Charter.**

- Would eliminate the position numbers for each of the seven City Council seats and would allow the candidates who receive the most votes to be elected to the City Council.

Explanation: All Councilor candidates would show on the ballot together, the three candidates with the highest votes would be elected to four-year terms each. The Mayor candidates would show on the ballot separately from the Councilor candidates with one candidate receiving the highest votes elected to a two-year term.

- Would eliminate the Primary Election. Both Mayor and Councilor candidates would apply for candidacy on the Biennial General Election.
- Would update language for filling mid-term vacancies through appointment by the City Council for the remainder of the vacant term. Would update language to clarify how a vacancy would be filled in the case of a temporary disability or absence of any officer.

► **If Measure Does Not Pass: City Charter would not change.**

What is the City Charter?

The City Charter is a legal document that establishes the structure, functions, and powers of a city government. It acts as the city's constitution, outlining the organization of the city government, the powers and duties of elected officials, and the methods by which city services and functions are carried out. Under Oregon law, cities have "home rule" authority, which means they have the power to govern themselves with respect to local matters.

Local Autonomy: The City Charter provides cities in Oregon with the flexibility to tailor their government structure and operations to meet local needs and preferences.

Clarity and Transparency: It offers clear guidelines on how the city is governed, promoting transparency and accountability in local government.

Legal Framework: The Charter serves as the legal foundation for the city's operations, guiding city officials to act within their defined powers.

To view the current La Grande City Charter showing the current language and proposed revisions?

- Visit the City of La Grande website: <https://www.cityoflagrande.org>
- On the homepage under La Grande News, click: **Proposed City of La Grande City Charter Amendment Ballot Measure**
- At the bottom of that page, click attachment: [La Grande City Charter – Legislative Copy](#)
- Or to obtain a physical copy, contact Stacey Stockhoff, City Recorder. Phone and email listed below.

Questions?

For more information please contact:

- City Recorder, Stacey Stockhoff (541) 962-1351 sstockhoff@cityoflagrande.org
- City Manager, Robert Strope (541) 962-1309 rstrope@cityoflagrande.org

This information was reviewed by the Oregon Elections Division for compliance with ORS 260.432.