

# Notice of Measure Election

SEL 801

County

26-230 rev 01/18: ORS 250.035, 250.041, 250.175, 254.103, 254.465

## Notice

Date of Notice

September 7, 2022

Name of County or Counties

Multnomah County

Date of Election

November 8, 2022

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county'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.

See attached

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

See attached

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

See attached

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2022 SEP - 7 PM 4: 05  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

**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 county governing body; or
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?  Yes  No

**Authorized County Official** Not required to be notarized.

Name

Jenny Madkour

Title

County Attorney

Mailing Address


501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97214

Contact Phone

(503) 988-3138

*By signing this document:*

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the county 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.



September 7, 2022

Signature

Date Signed

## **Gender Neutral Charter Amendment Ballot Title & Explanatory Statement**

**Caption (10/10):** Amends charter: replaces gender binary pronouns with gender neutral terms

**Question (20/20):** Should county charter be amended to replace gender binary pronouns (including he, she, his, and her) with gender neutral terms?

**Summary (143/175):** The existing county charter uses gender binary pronouns including he, she, his, and her, throughout the document in sections 4.10 (Qualifications), 4.20 (Terms Of Office; Successive Terms; Running For Office In Midterm), 4.40 (Vacancies – Causes), 6.10 (Chair Of The Board), 6.50 (Sheriff), and 7.20 (Civil Service Commission). In addition, existing charter section 7.40(4) provides that references to the masculine gender in that chapter of the charter refer to the masculine, feminine, neuter, or applicable noun.

This charter amendment would replace gender binary pronouns throughout the charter with gender neutral terms appropriate to the context. For example, use of the pronouns "he or she" in section 6.50 to refer to the sheriff would be replaced with the term "the sheriff."

This amendment also would remove existing charter section 7.40(4) because that section would no longer be necessary after removal of all references to gender.

**Explanatory Statement (358/500):** Existing county charter uses gender binary pronouns in charter sections 4.10 (Qualifications), 4.20 (Terms Of Office; Successive Terms; Running For Office In Midterm), 4.40 (Vacancies – Causes), 6.10 (Chair Of The Board), 6.50 (Sheriff), and 7.20 (Civil Service Commission). In addition, existing charter section 7.40(4) provides that references to the masculine gender in that chapter of the charter refer to the masculine, feminine, neuter, or applicable noun.

In 2019, Multnomah County updated its County Code to include a statement that the Code is gender inclusive and to replace gender binary pronouns with gender neutral pronouns. Similar changes have not yet been made to the charter.

This charter amendment recommended by the Charter Review Committee would replace gender binary pronouns in the charter, including he, she, his, and her, with gender neutral terms. The amendment would replace gender binary pronouns throughout the charter (in sections 4.10, 4.20, 4.40, 6.10, 6.50, and 7.20) with gender neutral terms appropriate to the context.

For example, use of the pronouns "he or she" in section 6.50 to refer to the sheriff would be replaced with the term "the sheriff." Existing charter section 6.50 provides, "The people of Multnomah County shall elect a county sheriff for the function of said office as prescribed by state law and he or she shall have sole administration of all county jails and correctional institutions located in Multnomah County." As amended, charter section 6.50 would provide, "The people of Multnomah County shall elect a county

sheriff for the function of said office as prescribed by state law and the sheriff shall have sole administration of all county jails and correctional institutions located in Multnomah County."

As another example, existing charter section 4.10(2) provides, in part, "Before the electee or appointee to an elective office takes the office he or she shall be eligible to be bonded." As amended, charter section 4.10(2) would provide, "Before the electee or appointee to an elective office takes the office the electee or appointee shall be eligible to be bonded."

This amendment also would remove existing charter section 7.40(4) because that section would no longer be necessary after removal of all references to gender.