



Eugene City Council

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

June 10, 2020

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Due to Governor Kate Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Order to combat the spread of Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely using virtual meeting technology. Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials>

**Meeting of June 10, 2020;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding**

Councilors

Emily Semple, President
Mike Clark
Chris Pryor
Betty Taylor

Jennifer Yeh, Vice President
Greg Evans
Claire Syrett
Alan Zelenka

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

- 1. WORK SESSION: STAR Voting**
- 2. WORK SESSION: Library Local Option Levy**

For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010
or visit us online at www.eugene-or.gov.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: STAR (Score Then Automatic Runoff) Voting

Meeting Date: June 10, 2020
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Brooke Freed
Phone: 541-682-5616

ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session is in response to a work session poll approved by council to discuss the STAR (Score Then Automatic Runoff) voting system for local single-seat elections, including the potential to eliminate the primary election for city elective offices.

BACKGROUND

Currently, candidates for Mayor and City Councilor appear on the primary election ballot in May of a regular election year. If a candidate receives a majority of votes cast for a position in the May primary, that candidate's name is the only name placed on the November general election ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast for the position in the May primary, the names of the two candidates who received the highest number of votes appear on the November general election ballot.

Under Oregon Statute, the county clerk furnishes the required ballots for regular primary and general elections (ORS 254.185). Unless a city charter or ordinance provides otherwise, the ballots used for state and county elections include city offices and measures, if the county clerk considers it practicable (ORS 254.035). Prior to each election, the county clerk shall make every reasonable effort to acquaint electors with the ballot format to be used in the election and the methods used to mark ballots to cast a valid vote (ORS 254.071).

Unless council directs otherwise, a Eugene voters' pamphlet is published by the Eugene City Recorder for primary, general, or special elections at the expense of the City and includes information on City candidates, City measures, and EWEB candidates. The county does not typically issue a voters' pamphlet.

Using the STAR voting system, the May primary step would be eliminated for the offices of Mayor and City Councilor, with candidates voted on only at the November general election. For the November election, voters would be given a ratings ballot, on which each voter rates every candidate with a number from 0 to 5, with 0 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest score. The ballot would inform the elector of how votes are to be cast and how votes will be tallied. A voter could give the same score to more than one candidate for the same office. Candidates who are given no score would receive a zero.

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The scores for each candidate would then be totaled, and the two highest-rated candidates selected as finalists. In the instant-runoff round, the finalist who was given a higher rating on a greater number of ballots is elected to office.

Considerations

Cost:

If Eugene is the only adopter of STAR Voting, the financial impact to develop and operate a new voting system for the City of Eugene, in addition to the existing system used for other local jurisdiction offices is difficult to estimate. New costs would include the development of a new ballot, tabulation, and verification system. The introduction of any new system of voting and vote tabulation requires testing and certification by a non-partisan, independent lab, followed by testing and certification by the State. These testing requirements, which have the potential to be iterative, make it difficult to predict the cost (and timeline) for implementation. New STAR Voting software subscription costs would be ongoing. Public education and outreach regarding the new system is also anticipated to have associated expenses.

If the City eliminated the May primary for Mayor and City Councilor races, a voters' pamphlet including candidate statements could be produced for the November general election. Currently a voters' pamphlet is only produced for the November general election if there are contested races or there is a City-referred ballot measure. Given that voters' pamphlets are not always produced for the November general election, this represents a new cost.

If the May primary election for Mayor and City Councilor were eliminated, EWEB elections and City measures could continue to be included in a May primary, on the ballot with other local elections. City code requires production of a voters' pamphlet for any City-referred measure (EC 2.993[2]) and directs the city manager to publish a voters' pamphlet containing candidate statements, unless the city council waives the requirement (EC 2.993[4]). Currently, voters' pamphlets are produced for the May primary election, so this represents an existing cost that would continue, unless the council chooses to waive that requirement (if there are no City-referred measures on the ballot).

Education and Outreach:

An education plan for voters and candidates would be necessary to ensure all Eugene voters understand how to utilize the new voting system, in addition to the existing County system for voting on other local elections or measures.

Implementation Process and Timeline:

Passage of a STAR Voting ballot measure would amend the City Charter. This would also trigger updates to Eugene Code to implement and administer the STAR voting system. The City Recorder would work with the Lane County Elections Office on the implementation process, and related timeline.

Currently, there are no known U.S. jurisdictions (municipal, county or state) using the STAR voting system from which to gather data. There are numerous U.S. jurisdictions that utilize Ranked Choice Voting (Instant Runoff Voting). In Oregon, Benton County approved Ranked Choice Voting

in November 2016, to be used only when a minimum of three candidates are nominated for the general election for the office of Benton County Commissioner. Benton County will first implement this during the November 2020 general election, if needed.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Option 1: Direct the city manager to return to Council with a resolution referring to the November 3, 2020, ballot the STAR voting proposed charter amendment attached as Attachment A.

Suggested motion

I move to direct the City Manager to return on July 13, 2020, with a resolution calling a City election on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of referring to the legal electors of Eugene a Charter amendment that elects the mayor and councilors using the Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) voting method.

Option 2: Direct the city manager to make changes to proposed Charter amendment and then return to Council with a resolution referring to the November 3, 2020, ballot the modified charter amendment. The changes to the proposed Charter amendment shall include the following:
[council to identify changes]

Suggested motion

I move to direct the City Manager to return on July 13, 2020, with a resolution calling a City election on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of referring to the legal electors of Eugene a Charter amendment for STAR voting that includes the following changes to Attachment A.

Option 3: Direct the city manager to return to council for a subsequent work session with additional information from staff.

Suggested motion

I move to direct the City Manager to schedule an additional work session on alternatives to the current primary and general election system of electing city councilors and the Mayor.

Option 4: Take no action at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager has no recommendation on this item.

ATTACHMENTS

A. STAR Voting Proposed Charter Amendment

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Brooke Freed

Telephone: 541-682-5616

Staff E-Mail: bfreed@eugene-or.gov

2019 Proposed Amendments to Eugene City Charter, Sections 20 and 24:**Section 20. Election.**

(1) Immediately after the votes at any municipal election have been canvassed **and tallied as provided in subsection (4) of this Section**, the city manager or designee shall issue a certificate of election to each person declared by the canvassers to have been elected. The certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated, but the city council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of the mayor and councilors, and in case of a contest between two or more persons claiming to be mayor or councilor, shall determine the contest.

(2) Election of municipal officers under this Section shall be held at the November election according to STAR Voting as described in subsections (3) and (4) of this Section.

(3) A ballot shall be delivered to each registered elector, regardless of party affiliation. The ballot shall direct the elector to score each candidate appearing on the ballot on a scale of zero to five, with zero being the lowest score possible and five being the highest score possible. If an elector leaves a candidate's score blank, the elector's score for that candidate shall be counted as zero. An elector may give the same score to multiple candidates in the same race. The ballot shall inform the elector of how votes are to be cast and how votes will be tallied under subsections (3) and (4) of this Section, respectively. These instructions shall contain, at a minimum, the information presented in subsection (5) of this Section.

(4) STAR Voting elects the majority favorite between the two highest-scoring candidates, determined as follows:

(a) For each office for which a candidate appears on the ballot, the vote tally system shall calculate the sum total of the scores received by each candidate and then determine the two candidates who received the greatest total scores. Those two candidates will be deemed the "finalists" for that office.

(b) Of the two finalists identified under subsection (4)(a) of this Section, the vote tally system shall determine in whose favor each elector's ballot was cast, as follows: Each elector's vote will be considered cast in favor of the finalist whom that elector gave the greater score. If an elector gave both finalists the same score, that elector's ballot will be considered a vote of no preference between the finalists.

(c) The finalist in whose favor a greater number of votes are cast as determined under subsection (4)(b) of this Section shall be entitled to a certificate of election to office.

(5) The following basic information shall be included in the ballot's instructions, presented in clear and accessible language:

In STAR Voting, each voter, or "elector," scores each candidate appearing on the ballot on a scale from zero (worst) to five (best).

If an elector leaves a candidate's score blank, the elector's score for that candidate is counted as zero.

An elector wishing to express no preference between two or more candidates may do so by giving them the same score.

The Electors' scores are summed, and the two highest-scoring candidates are deemed finalists. The finalist that a greater number of electors preferred will be elected to office.

(5) The City Council shall, by ordinance, establish rules for the orderly administration of the election using STAR Voting as described in subsections (3) and (4) of this Section, including rules to determine the prevailing candidate in cases of a tie-vote at any stage of STAR Voting.

Section 24. Vacancies - Filling.

(1) The Eugene Water & Electric Board shall fill a vacancy on the board by appointment within ninety days after the vacancy occurs.

(2) The council shall fill a vacancy in any other elective city office by appointment within ninety days after the vacancy occurs. A person so appointed shall hold office until the successor to the office is duly elected and qualifies therefor.

(3) If the position of a city councilor or mayor becomes vacant more than 100 calendar days prior to the [May] **November** election of any year, an election to fill that vacancy shall be conducted in the same year. If the position of city councilor or mayor becomes vacant less than 100 days prior to the [May] **November** election of any year, the election to fill that vacancy shall be conducted the next year. *[If a candidate for election to a vacated position achieves a majority of all votes cast for that position in the May election, that candidate shall assume office the following July 1, notwithstanding Section 21 of this charter.]* The term of office of any person elected to fill a vacancy shall expire when the term of the vacated position expires.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), if the election required by this Section 24 would occur in the fourth year of the term of the vacated position, then no election to fill the vacancy will be held. Instead, the individual appointed under subsection (2) will remain in office through the expiration of the term of the vacated position.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Library Local Option Levy

Meeting Date: June 10, 2020
Department: Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2
Staff Contact: Will O'Hearn
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5363

ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council is asked to review options for the renewal of the library local option levy.

BACKGROUND

On November 3, 2015, the City of Eugene voters approved Measure 20-235 to fund enhanced Eugene Public Library services for five years beginning July 2016. The expanded services promised in the levy were in three categories:

1. More hours and access
2. More programs and services for all ages
3. More materials and technology

Accountability and transparency were built into the levy measure through an annual review by the citizen Library Advisory Board.

On January 27, 2020, as part of the accountability and transparency built into the levy, the council was presented with the third-year report to the community of the five-year local option library levy. At that meeting, Council asked for a proposal for the renewal of the library levy. The five-year levy is set to expire in June 2021.

Library Levy Options

Three local option levy renewal alternatives are summarized below. All three options build upon our proven strategies for engagement with library services and are in alignment with what the community has prioritized and expects from our library: hours and access, materials and technology, and programs and services. The levy alternatives focus on different levels of service in each of those three priority areas. The second option includes and expands upon the previous one, and the third option includes and expands on the previous two.

The identified services incorporate a level of flexibility and nimbleness in implementation due to the uncertain nature of this time. It focuses on the broad issues that will come along with the pandemic and the recovery of our community. These options emphasize services that our community expects from our library, such as supporting early literacy and childhood education, workforce development, increased information access, and bringing library services through

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outreach to the community. As the levy proposal moves forward, these outcomes will be further reviewed, refined, and defined.

Below is a financial breakdown of the current levy and the three options presented, all figures are preliminary estimates:

	5-Year Average			FY22
	Tax Rate	Tax per Home per Year	Levy Amount	Service Level Increase/ (Decrease)
Currently	0.17	36	2,700,000	
Option 1	0.15	37	2,850,000	-
Option 2	0.17	42	3,180,000	267,000
Option 3	0.20	50	3,800,000	767,000

Option 1: Maintain

\$2.85 million/year; \$37 per year for a typical household, tax rate of 0.15

Maintain (Option 1) keeps the level of service currently supported by levy funds (adjusted with inflation), preserving convenient hours of access at all three locations, maintaining access:

- 22 hours each week at our Bethel location per week
- 22 hours each week at our Sheldon location per week
- Three weekend hours each week at the Downtown location per week

Option 1 also maintains programs and services:

- Continue to provide free information, resources and instruction for enriching lifelong education and self-improvement resources, such as assisting job seekers to pivot and redefine skillsets with both in-person instruction and self-learning opportunities.
- Maintain educational and enriching programs at all three locations with a focus on teens, including connecting vulnerable youth with additional support.
- Continue to support early literacy efforts, addressing our community's third grade reading levels directly.
- Continue providing off-site programs with community partners.
- Continue providing heightened resources and services for our community, including for example, job development, business resources, language resources and others.

Technology and Materials:

- Maintain available and accessible technologies, including our Makerspace and Maker Van, and connected programs.
- Allow for the purchase of additional copies of popular material, maintaining the shorter wait times for in-demand material.
- Continue a focus on providing internet access to youth in our community, and to help close the socioeconomic digital divide by providing digital materials, including e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming services, and a vast collection of digital learning platforms.

Option 2: Maintain and Recover

\$3.18 million/year; \$42 per year for a typical household, tax rate of 0.17

Maintain and Recover (Option 2) includes everything in Option 1, PLUS allows for stabilization of library services, to strengthen our community's recovery.

- This addresses the continually changing needs of library service and facilities due to unforeseen changes in our environment, setting up the library to maximize our effectiveness as we redefine how we serve our community.
- All the services that we currently provide must be reimaged to suit both this changing period of time and allow for continued access to services.
- Our changing landscape creates a larger focus on outreach and the need for agility in meeting our community where they are at and giving our community the access to fully leverage all services and offerings. Finding new ways to reach out to our community where they are and meeting our community's needs when physical gathering is limited (such as school visits both virtually and in person), bringing information access and technology to vulnerable populations with our Maker Van and other potential outreach vehicles, and locating HotSpots throughout our community through traditional circulation or strategic locations, will be critical in aiding our community recovery.

Option 3: Maintain, Recover, and Grow

3.8 million/year; \$50 per year for a typical household, tax rate of 0.20

Maintain, Recover and Grow (Option 3) includes services and programs in Options 1 and 2, PLUS allows for an additional \$500,000 per year for operating expenses tied to:

- The expansion of the Downtown Library to the fourth floor of the building.
- Setting aside funds upfront of the levy for costs associated with the relocation of staff currently located on the fourth floor, the additional changes to make it a usable library space for our community, and additional expense and maintenance that come with the space.

Accountability and Transparency

To ensure accountability and for funds to be used in the way our community and voters intended, there will be built in checks and balances to assure that will be accomplished with levy funds. To address this concern, several components will be included:

- Levy funds will be budgeted and accounted for in separate funds that are easily identified by members of the public.
- Staff will prepare an annual summary of levy spending and performance measures. The report will clearly and transparently lay out the Library's budget and split between General Fund and Levy Funds. The Library Advisory Board will annually review the report to determine whether spending complied with the intention of the ballot language.
- The City Manager will provide an annual memorandum to the council about levy spending and key performance measures for the services. The memorandum will include the staff report and any comments from the Library Advisory Board after their review.

This three-pronged approach is designed to give the community confidence that funds are appropriately spent through both published financial documents and a community panel review.

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It will also focus the conversation on how levy funds are accomplishing key goals through a review of appropriate performance measures.

Timing

In order to place a measure on the November 3, 2020, ballot, the council must act by July 27, 2020.

In order to place a measure on the May 17, 2021 ballot, the council must act by February 8, 2021.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is an informational work session.

SUGGESTED MOTION

No motion is proposed at this time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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