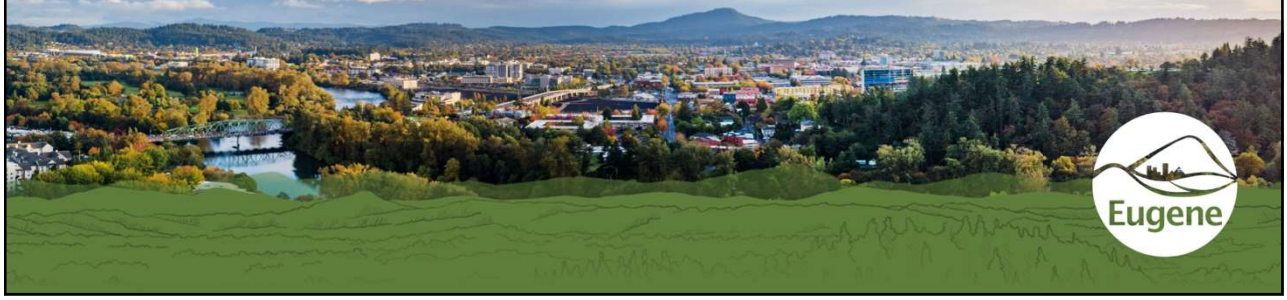
Charter Review & Amendment Process

May 22, 2024



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Charter

- Local authority to draft and amend Charter
- No regular Charter review process required
- *Council-initiated* amendments by referral
- *Citizen-initiated* amendments by petition
- Placed on ballot for Eugene electors to decide

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Possible Areas of Interest

- Timing of Mayoral election
- Mayor & Councilor compensation
- EWEB compensation
- Mayor/Councilor vacancies, interim appointments
- Department heads residency requirement
- General language review

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Bring Back Work Session/Research:

Issue	Priority Now	Priority Later	Not Interested
Mayoral Election			
Mayor/Council Compensation			
EWEB Compensation			
Vacancy/Interim Appointment Process			
Department Head Residency			
Language Review			

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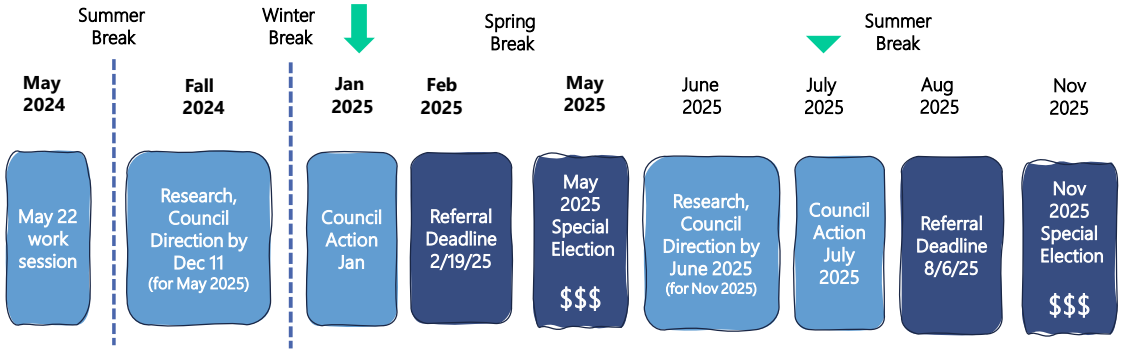
Timeline for 2025 (Special Elections)



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Timing of Mayoral Election

Charter Chapter 3, Sections 6 & 7:

- Councilors elected by wards for four years, one half each two years
- Mayor elected in 2004 and every fourth year thereafter for a term of four years
  - 2024 Election: Mayor, Councilors Ward 1, 2, 7, 8
  - 2026 Election: Councilors Ward 3, 4, 5, 6

ORS 249.013(5): A person may not be a candidate for more than one city office to be filled at the same election

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Mayor and Councilor Compensation

Charter Chapter 6, Section 18:

- Beginning July 2001, Mayor stipend $1,500 per month and City Councilors stipend $1,000 per month
- Each fiscal year adjusted by % increase or decrease equal to Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Portland area
  - FY24 Stipends: Mayor $2,581; Councilors $1,723 per month
- Stipends are in addition to expense reimbursements
- Mayor and councilors receive no fringe benefits but may purchase health insurance from the city

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EWEB Compensation

Charter Chapter 10, Section 44(2):

- The board is composed of five electors of the city, who shall serve without pay and whose terms of office and election shall be prescribed by the city council by ordinance.

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Vacancies and Interim Appointments

Charter Chapter 6, Section 23 & Section 24

- Fill vacancies by appointment within 90 days; person appointed shall hold office until the successor is elected
- If the position becomes vacant more than 100 days prior to the May election, an election shall be conducted in the same year.
- If the position becomes vacant less than 100 days prior to the May election, the election shall be conducted the next year.

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Vacancies and Interim Appointments

(Cont'd)

- If a candidate for a vacated position achieves a majority of all votes cast in the May election, candidate shall assume office July 1.
- The term of office of any person elected to fill a vacancy shall expire when the term of the vacated position expires.
- If the election would occur in the fourth year of the term of the vacated position, no election to fill the vacancy will be held. Instead, the individual appointed will remain in office through the expiration of the term of the vacated position.

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Department Head Residency

Charter Chapter 4, Section 16 (3):

- Offices of manager and department heads may be filled by candidates from outside the city, but during their tenure shall reside in the city.
- All employees [excluding department heads] appointed by the manager shall reside in the city during their tenure, except as the council authorizes the manager to prescribe to the contrary and the manager does so.

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General Language Review

- Antiquated language
- Level of specificity/core services

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Timelines

Election Date/Type	Cost	Council Direction	Referral Deadline
May 20, 2025 – Special	$$$	Dec 11, 2024	Feb 19, 2025
Nov 4, 2025 – Special	$$$	June 2024	Aug 6, 2025
May 19, 2026 – Primary	$	Dec 2025	Feb 18, 2026
Nov 3, 2026 – General	$	June 2026	Aug 5, 2026

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