

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Presentation of Referendum Petition 2025-1 to Council

Meeting Date: April 9, 2025
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Sarah Medary
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The purpose of this item is to present the certified referendum petition 2025-1 to Council for consideration pursuant to Eugene Code 2.980. Council may choose to take action at or after this work session.

BACKGROUND

A prospective referendum petition was filed with the City Recorder's Office on February 20, 2025, regarding Ordinance 20717, An Ordinance Establishing A Fire Service Fee And Adding New Sections 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, And 6.790 To The Eugene Code, 1971. (Ordinance 20717 is included as Attachment A, and the Ballot Title is included as Attachment B.)

On March 13, 2025, the Chief Petitioners submitted the petition signature sheets to the City Recorder's Office to be validated, meeting the initial deadline for a referendum filing as defined by E.C. 2.974(d) (requiring that a completed referendum petition be submitted to the City Recorder by the effective date of the legislation sought to be referred). The effective date of the ordinance was March 14, 2025.

On March 17, 2025, the City Recorder's Office received certification from Lane County Elections, stating that the results of the statistical sample of signatures showed that the petition contained the required 5,817 valid signatures to refer the measure to the ballot (6,084 valid signatures estimated via sampling, see Attachment C).

On March 24, 2025 the City Recorder finished reviewing Lane County's results and certified the completed referendum petition. Due to the timing of certification the next available regular election date is November 4, 2025. Ordinance 20717 is stayed until the results of the election are certified, or Council takes further action.

Per E.C. 2.980, no later than 20 days after the City Recorder's certification the City Manager must present the referendum petition to Council for consideration. The City Recorder certified the referendum petition on March 24, 2025; therefore, the City Manager must present the petition to the Council no later than April 13, 2025. During this meeting, Council will be presented with the following options for discussion:

- Repeal the ordinance referred by referendum petition;
- Vote to urge adoption or defeat of the referred measure; or
- Order submission of an alternative measure or measures to be voted upon at the same election as the referred measure.

Council may choose to do nothing or may choose to take one of the actions listed above; either during the meeting or sometime thereafter.

The next regular available election date for the referendum measure is November 4, 2025. Unless Council calls a special election in accordance with E.C. 2.981(2)(b) and ORS 221.230, the City Recorder will submit the referendum measure to Lane County Elections for the November 4, 2025, election. If Council does wish to call a special election before or after the November election, Council would need to do so via motion.

COUNCIL OPTIONS WITH CORRESPONDING MOTIONS

Take no action at this time:

- Council can take no action at this time but request a future work session to further discuss the available options.
 - **Motion:** *Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session on [specific date or "in the future"] for further discussion of Council's options.*

OR

Repeal the ordinance:

- The Council may repeal the ordinance referred by referendum petition 2025-1.
 - **Motion:** *Move to repeal Ordinance 20717, An Ordinance Establishing A Fire Service Fee And Adding New Sections 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, And 6.790 To The Eugene Code, 1971.*
- The Council could direct additional work following the repeal of the ordinance.
 - **Motion:** *Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session to discuss [topic] as an alternative to the repealed fire service fee ordinance.*

OR

Move forward with an election on the measure (several options):

- The Council may take no additional action, in which case the referred measure will appear on the ballot in November 2025.
 - **No motion.**
- The Council may call an earlier special election, in accordance with E.C. 2.981(2)(b) and ORS 221.230.
 - **Motion:** *Move to call an August 26, 2025, special election on referendum petition 2025-1. .*

- The Council may vote to urge adoption or defeat of the referred measure.
 - ***Motion:*** *Move to urge [adoption OR defeat] of the referred measure.*
- The Council may order submission of an alternative measure or measures to be voted upon at the same election as the referred measure.
 - ***Motion:*** *Move to direct City Manager to schedule an additional work session to develop an alternative measure for referral to the ballot.*

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Ordinance 20717 - An Ordinance Establishing A Fire Service Fee And Adding New Sections 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, And 6.790 To The Eugene Code, 1971.
- B. Final Ballot Title for Petition 2025-1
- C. Lane County Elections Certified Results of Petition 2025-1 and worksheet

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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