

## **Multnomah County Ballot Measure 26-230**

**Official Title:** Amends charter: replaces gender binary pronouns with gender neutral terms

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

**Financial Impact:** None

**Probable Results of “Yes” Vote:** Gender neutral terms would replace the words *he*, *she*, *hers*, *his*, and *it* in Charter sections 4.10, 4.20, 4.40, 6.10, 6.50, and 7.20. Section 7.40(4), which mandates alternatives to masculine pronouns, would be deleted.

**Probable Results of “No” Vote:** The words *he*, *she*, *hers*, *his*, and *it* would remain in Charter sections 4.10, 4.20, 4.40, 6.10, 6.50, and 7.20. Section 7.40(4) would not be deleted.

**Background:** County commissioners voted in June 2019 to replace gender pronouns in the County Code with gender neutral language, but similar changes to the County Charter require voter approval. Use of gender neutral language in all County documents is intended to underscore the County’s larger effort to support transgender and nonbinary constituents and employees and to establish a gender-neutral workplace.

**Summary of Measure:** Gender neutral terms would replace gender 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). For example, according to the measure’s explanatory statement, “use of the pronouns ‘he or she’ in section 6.50 to refer to the sheriff would be replaced with the term ‘the sheriff.’” Section 7.40(4), which requires the use of *he or she* or some other alternative to masculine pronouns, would be deleted.

### **Supporters Say:**

- Inclusive language in County documents supports the larger mission of the County to foster equity and respect for all constituents and employees.

There is no organized opposition to this measure.