

Letter to Editor of Portland Tribune, 9-27-2022

The League of Women Voters of Portland strongly supports Measure 26-228 for Charter Reform. Therefore, we were dismayed by the misinformation in Tim Nesbitt's opposition op-ed. The voting method in Measure 26-228 does not include a supermajority requirement and does not violate Measure 63 Oregon Constitutional provisions. Nesbitt also ignores that the Oregon Constitution specifically allows proportional representation with ranked choice voting in multi-winner elections as proposed in Measure 26-228.

This voting process applies to incumbents who have advantages (name recognition) and disadvantages (unpopular positions) just as they have under the current winner-take-all voting system. Under Measure 26-228, an incumbent city councilor would have the same chance to be elected or defeated as any other candidate.

Nesbitt also claims that these reforms aren't needed since the current Council is quite diverse. However, Nesbitt ignores the need for policies to support that trend. After all, since 1995 Council seats were held by white men 75% of the time.

The League bases its support for Charter reform on in-depth studies of Portland's City Government and Election Methods. We conclude that Measure 26-228 reforms will lead to more effective government and fairer elections. See [lwvpdx.org](http://lwvpdx.org) for more information.

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