



# KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE: PORTLAND CITY GOVERNMENT

## New Mayor, New Job: Running the City

Whether you've voted for Portland mayors for decades, or this November will be your first time, it is valuable to know what the new Mayor's job will be ... there are changes!

### **The Mayor Will Be the City's CEO – Leader of an Executive Team**

In the past, five individual City Council members ran the City's bureaus. No more. Starting Jan. 1, the City will be managed by an Executive Team – the elected Mayor and the professional City Administrator (who is appointed and supervised by the Mayor).

- The Mayor will also appoint the Police Chief and the City Attorney.
- The City Administrator will appoint and supervise the other bureau chiefs (Fire, Transportation, Parks, etc.)

### **A Unified Budget Process**

In the past, individual Council members worked on the budgets for the bureaus they supervised. Now, bureaus will report to the City Administrator, who will prepare the budget under the direction of the Mayor.

### **Contracts & Inter-Agency Agreements**

The Mayor can negotiate and sign city contracts. This includes inter-agency agreements with Multnomah County, Metro, and other governments.

### **The Mayor & The Council**

The Mayor's task is to carry out Council policies – and to bring policy proposals to the Council – but the Mayor won't sit on the City Council. The Mayor can break tie votes if necessary.



League of  
Women Voters  
of Portland

Visit our website to learn more and  
request an in-person presentation:  
[lwvpdx.org/election-2024](http://lwvpdx.org/election-2024)



# KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE: PORTLAND CITY GOVERNMENT

## 12 City Councilors Who Focus on Policy

### Councilors Will Be Legislators, Not Administrators

- Portland's City Council used to run City programs as well as adopting City policies. No more.
- In the past, when running bureaus, Council members could take many official actions individually. Now, official action requires a majority vote of the Council. Collaboration will be important.

### Council Has the Power of the Purse: It Approves the Budget

- The Executive Team proposes an annual budget to the City Council. The City Council has the final say on what goes into the budget.
- The budget guides the actions of the Executive Team. Spending and contracting must be consistent with the budget.

### Council Will Elect Its Own Leadership & Decide How it Will Operate

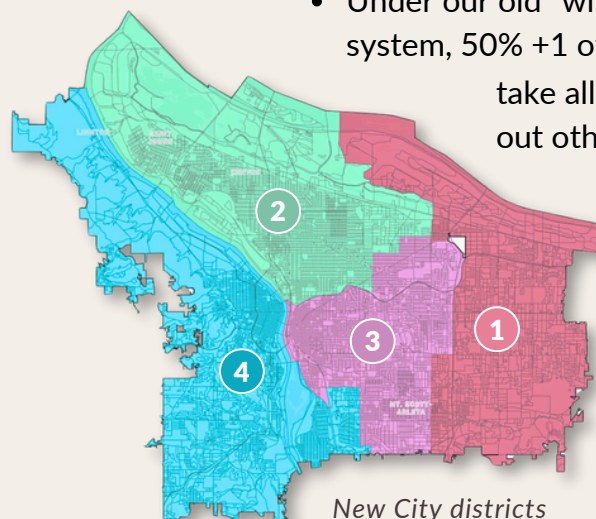
- The Council will pick its own leaders — a President and Vice President — and establish its own rules.
- The Council will decide how (and whether) to have offices in each District.
- Large city councils usually set up committees that can focus on particular issues. What would you like our new City Council to focus on?



Rendering of new City Council chambers

### Councilors Will Be Elected from Four New Districts for Better Representation

- Portlanders said that parts of the City were ignored by the Council in the past. Now, all four Districts are guaranteed seats on the Council.
- Because the three top vote-getters in each District will be on the Council, more voices will be heard.
  - If an issue is important to 25% +1 of the voters in a district, they have a good chance of electing someone to Council.
  - Under our old "winner-take-all" system, 50% +1 of the voters could take all seats, shutting out other points of view.



League of  
Women Voters  
of Portland

Visit our website to learn more and  
request an in-person presentation:  
[lwvpdx.org/election-2024](http://lwvpdx.org/election-2024)

