

2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Charter Amendment on Gresham Urban Renewal

Measure 26-256: Gresham Urban Renewal

OFFICIAL TITLE: Amends Gresham Charter; urban renewal actions consistent with state law.

QUESTION: Shall the City Charter be amended to make urban renewal actions consistent with existing state law; requires no new taxes?

REFERRAL: This measure is a Charter amendment referred to the voters by the Gresham City Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This amendment does not authorize the creation of a new tax and does not increase property taxes.

PROBABLE RESULT OF A “YES” VOTE: If this measure passes, the Gresham Charter provisions on urban renewal will be amended to become compliant with state law provisions on urban renewal.

PROBABLE RESULT OF A “NO” VOTE: If this measure fails, Gresham will retain its existing urban renewal provisions, which limit Gresham’s ability to respond quickly to meet evolving community needs related to job creation opportunities, public safety investments or investments in public infrastructure.

BACKGROUND: The Gresham Charter, adopted in 1978 and last amended in 2012, is the constitution of the City of Gresham.

Urban renewal is an economic development tool used in over 100 urban renewal areas in Oregon. Urban renewal plans are created and governed by state law. But Gresham's current urban renewal Charter language differs from state law and the provisions for urban renewal in other cities. This is a disadvantage, keeping the City of Gresham from creating a more livable community, attracting development that benefits residents, and appealing to businesses to create jobs.

PROPOSAL: If approved, this measure would amend the Charter to be consistent with existing state law. This would allow the City Council, as the governing body charged with the powers authorized by state law, to perform any act or carry out any function to approve or make large changes to urban renewal plans. State law assures voters are involved with urban renewal plan decisions. The City is required to conduct public outreach and hold a public hearing before approving a new plan or making substantial changes to an existing plan.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

- Amending the Charter allows Gresham to be more efficient and responsive to:
 - Job creation opportunities
 - Public safety investments
 - Investments in public infrastructure
 - Changes in the economy
 - Changes in community needs and priorities
- This amendment would give the City the authority to implement needed changes in its urban renewal policies without a costly election.

OPPONENTS SAY:

As of September 14, 2024, there is no known organized public opposition to this measure.