

MAR 05 2026

Elections Division

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET**

Election Date: May 19, 2026

Background

A city charter acts as the organizational document for a city by establishing the basic structures and powers of city government. A city charter can only be amended by a vote of city voters.

What this Measure Proposes

This measure proposes amendments to the City Charter of Stayton. City voters last amended the City Charter in 2018.

Over several months, the City of Stayton City Council considered various amendments and updates to the City Charter. This measure is the culmination of the City Council's work.

Approving this measure would adopt the following amendments to the City Charter with the intent to:

- 1) Clarify that annexation proposals covering more than three acres will be put to a popular vote unless state law provides otherwise. This update has the effect of conforming the City Charter to existing state law.
- 2) Establish the Mayor as a voting member of the City Council. This amendment would allow the Mayor to vote on all questions before the City Council; currently, the Mayor does not have the authority to vote on City Council matters, except in the event of a tie.
- 3) Remove the Mayor's authority to require that the City Council reconsider ordinance adoptions. This change equalizes the authority between the Mayor and City Councilors for ordinance adoptions.
- 4) Modernize the process to fill vacancies on the City Council. This change adopts text proposed by the League of Oregon Cities model charter document.
- 5) Add job duties for the City Manager. This amendment creates duties for the City Manager in the City Charter, rather than in the City Code.
- 6) Clarify authority of the City's municipal judge to issue non-criminal administrative warrants. This update clarifies the judge's authority to assist the City with non-criminal code enforcement matters.
- 7) Update various provisions to harmonize the above changes with the rest of the City Charter. These updates revise terminology used in the City Charter to implement the other proposed changes.

Many of these proposed changes follow guidance from the model city charter produced by the League of Oregon Cities. The model city charter, in some fashion, is used in many cities of all sizes throughout Oregon. The City Council's intent in proposing these amendments is to modernize the City's Charter and ensure that the City's operations follow the latest Oregon laws.

A complete copy of the proposed City Charter amendments is available at Stayton City Hall and at www.staytonoregon.gov.

Effect of Vote

A "yes" vote adopts the proposed amendments to the City Charter. A "no" vote keeps the current City Charter unchanged.

If approved, the amendments to the City Charter of Stayton would become effective July 1, 2026.

Total Words 442 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature **Signature Redacted** Title City Manager

Printed Name Julia Hajduk Local Government Unit City of Stayton

Marion County Clerk: Bill Burgess
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