

This non-partisan report was prepared by volunteer members of the League of Women Voters of Lane County.

Measure 20-376
Eugene Charter Amendments Concerning Gender-Specific Pronouns

Official Title: Amends Charter, removes gender-specific pronouns

Question: Shall Charter be amended to remove gender-specific pronouns?

Referral: This measure is referred to voters by the Eugene City Council.

Financial Impact

This measure has no direct financial impact.

Probable Result Of “Yes” Vote

Pronouns in the City Charter that are not gender-neutral would change to gender-neutral pronouns or to the position title.

Probable Result Of “No” Vote

Charter language would not change.

Background

In many instances within the Eugene City Charter, “his or her” language is utilized.

In six comparable cities in Oregon, two (Hillsboro and Beaverton) have updated language to gender-neutral “they” or “them” or reference the specific position title instead (such as City Manager). Four other comparable cities, Salem, Gresham, Bend and Medford, have not updated their charter language.

Proposal

Sections and subsections of the Eugene City Charter contain gender-specific pronouns when referring to individuals. This charter amendment would remove the gender-specific language in the Charter and replace it with either a position title (such as City Manager) or a gender-neutral reference (such as “the person” or “their”).

Supporters Say

This change will update outdated language.

Opponents Say

There is no organized opposition to this measure.