

Draft Ballot Title Referrals (3) for Proposed Charter Changes

Last Updated: May 30, 2019

EXHIBIT "X"

BALLOT TITLE

CAPTION:

Amends Charter: Increases protections for Bull Run Watershed.

QUESTION:

Shall Charter be amended to increase Bull Run Watershed protections by restricting access, regulating allowed activities and limiting land uses?

SUMMARY:

The measure adds a new Charter section establishing protections for City lands within the Bull Run Watershed Closure Area, the location of the City's primary drinking water source and hydroelectric facilities. The Charter currently does not protect the Bull Run Watershed. The measure will codify watershed protections in the Charter and, if passed, the protections may only be removed by an affirmative vote of Portlanders.

Protections include:

- Public access restrictions
- Tree-cutting prohibitions
- Land use and activity limits
- Drinking water or hydroelectric projects must avoid and then mitigate impacts to the natural environment

The Bull Run Watershed Closure Area includes the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit—which is jointly managed by the City and the United States Forest Service—and additional land to the west which is managed exclusively by the City. The Bull Run Watershed Closure Area is managed to provide high-quality drinking water for the Portland metropolitan area.

BALLOT TITLE

CAPTION:

Amends Charter: Authorizes public use, non-Bull Run Watershed lands.

QUESTION:

Shall Charter be amended to authorize Council to allow public use of City lands outside the Bull Run Watershed?

SUMMARY:

The measure amends the Charter by clarifying Council authority to establish and maintain secondary public uses of City lands controlled by the Water Bureau for use in the City's water system, provided the lands are outside of the Bull Run Watershed Closure Area. Secondary public uses may include uses of these lands for green spaces, community gardens or other functions that do not conflict with the primary drinking water purpose of these lands. The measure will not impact City lands in the Bull Run Watershed Closure Area.

BALLOT TITLE

CAPTION:

Amends Charter: Authorizes City participation in emergency mutual aid agreements.

QUESTION:

Shall Charter be amended to authorize emergency mutual aid agreements between the City and other government entities, tribes or utilities?

SUMMARY:

The measure amends the Charter by clarifying Council authority to enter into and fund mutual aid agreements to provide or receive emergency assistance between the City and other government entities, tribes or utilities following a significant natural disaster or other major disruption to water-related services. Mutual aid agreements permit emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries when an emergency response exceeds local resources. Mutual aid agreements typically address the furnishing of personnel, equipment or expertise in a specific manner when an emergency occurs.