

Independent Utility Commission

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the role of the IUC?

The Commission will propose water and sewer budgets and rates, as well as actively monitor and review utility finances and expenditures.

Who will be on the IUC?

The IUC will be comprised of five residents of Portland, three of whom must have training and expertise in the fields of municipal finance and accounting, utility finance and ratemaking, utility economics, debt management, performance and financial auditing or other financial management discipline.

How do we ensure the IUC is independent and impartial?

The IUC members will be nominated by the City's Auditor. The members will be legally required to act impartially or they will be subject to removal.

How is this different from what happens now?

Now, the Mayor proposes the water and sewer budgets and the Commissioner-in-Charge proposes the rates. Under this proposal, the IUC would propose both budgets and rates, after independently reviewing the budgets and holding public hearings.

How will the IUC provide ongoing oversight?

The IUC will have the authority and dedicated professional staff available to review and make recommendations on the rates and budgets throughout the budget year. In addition, if the IUC finds a bureau has made an unauthorized expenditure, the IUC may, at its own choosing, exercise authority to review every subsequent expenditure of that bureau.

Is a Charter change needed to create the IUC?

No, a Charter change is not necessary to establish the Independent Utility Commission.

Why does Council adopt the rates and budgets under this proposal?

Under state law the City Council must adopt the budget for the City of Portland, including adopting the budgets for the water and sewer utility and the associated rates. Even if a Charter change were to occur Council would still be required to adopt the budgets under state law.

How will the Portland Utility Review Board and the bureau Budget Advisory Committees function in the proposed plan?

The PURB and the BAC will continue to provide feedback about the proposed budgets and rates.

*To submit a comment about the proposed Independent Utility Commission
please call 503.823.4151 or send an email to dan@portlandoregon.gov*