

RESOLUTION NO. 2434

A RESOLUTION REFERRING A MEASURE PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER TO THE VOTERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, ELECTION

WHEREAS, the city council convened a charter review committee to review and propose amendments to the city charter; and

WHEREAS, the charter review committee met in public meetings to review the 2015 City of Hermiston Charter and suggested multiple amendments that would bring the Charter into alignment with the Model Charter published by the League of Oregon Cities and also held a public meeting to receive public comment regarding the proposed amendments and then voted to recommend the amendments to the city council; and

WHEREAS, the city council reviewed the recommendations over multiple open meetings and finds that the amendments to the charter will improve governmental efficiency and will meet present and future needs of the city; and

WHEREAS, the amendments, which are attached and hereby incorporated, include:

- Changing the method of electing ward councilors from at large to elected by those electors within the ward boundary
- Removing the description of the ward boundaries from the charter to allow the wards to be adjusted by ordinance from time to time as needed to balance the population of the wards
- Changing the municipal court judge position from an elected role to an appointed role and removing the language related to an elected role throughout the charter
- Changing the selection of City Council President from every other year to every year
- Allowing any newly hired city manager up to 12 months from the date of their employment to establish residence in the city
- Clarifying that day-to-day supervision of the city attorney is the responsibility of the city manager
- Requiring the city charter to be reviewed every 10 years
- Making various language changes clarifications to better align the charter with the League of Oregon Cities Model Charter

WHEREAS, the city council finds that it is in the best interests of the City to submit the recommended amendments to the City voters for approval or rejection.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HERMISTON RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. That an election is called for the City of Hermiston, Umatilla County, Oregon to submit to City voters amendments to the City Charter attached as Exhibit A to this resolution.

2. That Tuesday, November 3, 2026, is designated as the date for holding the election for voting on this measure.
3. That the Umatilla County Elections Office will conduct the election.
4. That the precincts for this election will include all of the territory within the corporate limits of the City of Hermiston.
5. That the proposed ballot title will read as follows:

Ballot Title

Caption:

AMEND CITY OF HERMISTON CHARTER

Question:

Shall the City of Hermiston amend the 2015 Hermiston Charter?

Summary:

This measure amends the City's home rule charter adopted in 2015. The Oregon Constitution gives city voters the right to adopt and amend charters.

This measure amends the following sections:

- 1, amends year the title;
- 5, powers of the city, aligns with model charter;
- 7 and 25, amends ward councilors elected by ward electors only;
- 8, council wards defined, allow boundaries to be defined by ordinance;
- 10, council president elected annually;
- 12, relating to meetings, aligns with model charter;
- 25, amends ward councilors elected by ward electors only;
- 26, 27, 28, 29,30, 32, 33, 34 and 37, adds City council appointment of municipal judge and removes all election references;
- 32, amends oath;
- 35, adds deadline for city manager residency, also aligns language with model charter;
- 36, amends city attorney supervision by city manager;
- 46, relating to amendment and revisions;
- 47, adds Charter review every ten years;
- 48, amends date of effect.

No other provisions of the Charter would be changed by this measure.

The measure was referred to the voters by the City Council.

6. That if permitted by the County, the Mayor is authorized to sign, and the City Recorder is authorized to submit an impartial explanatory statement for the Umatilla County voters' pamphlet on behalf of the City.
7. That the City Manager, City Recorder, and City Attorney are authorized to and shall take any and all steps on behalf of the City as necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this resolution to cause the measure to appear on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, election.
8. That this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED by the Common Council this 22nd day of June 2026.
SIGNED by the Mayor this 22nd day of June 2026.

Doug Primmer, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Lilly Alarcon-Strong, CMC, CITY RECORDER