



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of May 26, 2026

Title/Subject

Review, Discussion and Next Steps of Charter Review Committee Results including Term Limits

Summary and Background

In late 2025, City Council adopted Resolution No. 2382 establishing a Charter Review Committee. The resolution appointed seven residents as committee members. It also directed the committee to review the complete charter and directed them to complete the review within 6-9 months and to hold one publicly advertised public hearing.

The Committee completed its work and held the public hearing on March 4, 2026. Below is a summary of the changes proposed by the Charter Review Committee broken into four general categories:

Elections and Candidates

- Moving the ward boundaries out of the charter but directing the city council to adopt ward boundaries by ordinance to keep them roughly equal in population.
- Changing the four ward councilor positions to be elected by the voters in their ward and not voters throughout the City.

City Council Roles

- Changing the municipal court judge position to be appointed rather than elected
- Changing the selection of the City Council president from every other year to every year.

City Manager Responsibilities

- Allowing any newly hired city manager up to 12 months from their date of employment to establish residence within the city.
- Clarifying that day-to-day supervision of the city attorney is the responsibility of the city manager.

City Charter Maintenance

- Requiring the City Charter to be formally reviewed at least once every 10 years.
- Making various language clarifications to better align the charter with the League of Oregon Cities Model Charter.

In addition to the above items recommended by the Charter Review Committee, the council directed staff during the April 27, 2026 discussion of these proposed changes, to bring back information for council discussion related to term limits. Below is a summary of staff's research on this subject:

City	Population	Description
Beaverton	100,778	Three consecutive four-year terms – mayor or councilor
Happy Valley	28,291	No more than Five total terms: can only be mayor for two terms
Lake Oswego	41,474	Eight consecutive years mayor, councilor, or combination
Milwaukie	21,361	No more than two consecutive terms
Oregon City	38,387	Two terms of four years in any ten-year period
Philomath	5,776	No more than three consecutive four-year terms
Redmond	38,199	Two four-year consecutive terms for councilor; two two-year consecutive terms for mayor; can swap and stay in office
Sherwood	20,871	No more than three consecutive terms
Tualatin	28,318	No more than twelve years in any twenty-year period*
Wilsonville	27,371	No more than twelve years in any twenty-year period*

*These have some additional language that makes it a little more complicated.

No Term Limits		
Albany	Hood River	Pendleton
Ashland	Keizer	Prineville
Astoria	Klamath Falls	Roseburg
Boardman	La Grande	Salem
Canby	Lebanon	Sandy
Central Point	Lincoln City	Springfield
Coos Bay	McMinnville	St. Helens
Corvallis	Medford	The Dalles
Dallas	Newberg	Troutdale
Eugene	Newport	Umatilla
Forest Grove	North Bend	Woodburn
Gresham	Ontario	

Staff did not look at every city in Oregon, but we did look at least these 45 different cities. Many of these cities are the size of Hermiston or larger. Others are smaller but not many smaller have term limits.

The ten cities that do have term limits provide a variety of approaches and are not identical but do provide some examples of how to approach term limits.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Good governance: Evaluate core governing documents and processes

Action 4.2

Fiscal Information

N/A

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Direct staff to prepare necessary documents to place the charter amendments proposed by the Charter Review Committee on the November 2026 ballot as presented with no term limits.
2. Direct staff to make specific edits and place those proposed charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot as presented. (*possibly including term limits*)
3. Direct staff to reconvene the charter review committee to review other changes and have the committee resubmit a recommendation.

Recommended Action/Motion

Motion to direct staff to prepare necessary documents to place the proposed charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot as presented with no term limits.

Submitted By:

Byron D. Smith