Amends Charter; changes method for electing mayor and city councilors.

City of Eugene

District

Eugene

City of Eugene

Ballot Title: Charter amendment; changes number of councilors and city councilors

To the Electors of the City of Eugene:

Amends Charter; changes method for electing mayor and city councilors.

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City of Eugene

Ballot Title: Charter amendment; changes number of councilors and city councilors

To the Electors of the City of Eugene:

Amends Charter; changes method for electing mayor and city councilors.
Initiative or Referendum Petition

County: [ ] City: Eugene [ ] District: [ ]

Ballot Title or Measure Title

Insert the final ballot title of the initiative or the title of the measure as enacted by the local governing body. If there is no title chief petitioners may supply one that must include the number of the ordinance/resolution being referred and the date the local governing body adopted the ordinance/resolution.

Caption: Amends Charter, changes method for electing mayor and city councilors.

Question: Shall Charter be amended to eliminate primary elections for mayor and councilors and elect them using the STAR Voting method?

Summary: This Charter amendment replaces the current method of electing mayor and councilors with the STAR Voting method.

Currently, all mayoral and councilor candidates are voted on in a May primary election; if a candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, the candidate runs unopposed in the November general election. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, the top two candidates run against each other in November general election.

This Charter amendment adopts the STAR Voting method, an election process where: 1) all candidates are voted on at November general or special election; 2) voters score each candidate on a scale of zero to five, multiple candidates can have same score (no score equals zero); 3) scores are totaled for each candidate; 4) “finalists” are the two candidates with highest total scores; 5) finalist preferred by the most voters is elected to office.

This amendment requires City to include information about the STAR Voting method on the ballot and Council to adopt an ordinance to administer elections using STAR Voting.

Text Proposed charter or ordinance or text of ordinance as enacted by local governing body. [ ] Available from Circulator [ ] Included below

Chief Petitioners Names and Residential City and State

Sara Wolk
365 River Rd
Eugene, OR 97405

Jacob Trewe
1450 Washington St
Eugene, OR 97401

Instructions for Circulators

1. Only active registered voters of the county, city or district may sign the petition.
2. Have signers use a pen when signing petitions. Use a pen when you are certifying petitions.
3. Only one circulator may collect signatures on any one signature sheet of the petition.
4. You must personally witness all signatures you collect and you should not collect additional signatures on the petition sheet once you have signed and dated the circulator certification.
5. It is against the law for circulators to:
   → Circulate a petition containing a false signature.
   → Make false statements to any person who signs the petition or requests information about it.
   → Attempt to obtain the signature of a person who is not qualified to sign the petition.
   → Offer money or anything of value to another person to sign or not sign the petition.
   → Sell or offer to sell signature sheets.
   → Write, alter, correct, clarify or obscure any information about the signers unless the signer is disabled and requests assistance or the signer initials after the changes are made.
   → Accept compensation to circulate a petition that is based on the number of signatures obtained.

Warning Violations of the circulator requirements may result in conviction of a felony with a fine of up to $125,000 and/or prison for up to 5 years.

Instructions for Signers

1. Only active Oregon voters may sign the petition. Sign your full name, as you did when you registered to vote.
2. Fill in the date you signed the petition, your printed name and residence address in the spaces provided. Only you may complete your optional information.
3. Initial any changes the circulator makes to your printed name, residence address or date you signed the petition.
4. Use a pen when signing the petition.
5. It is against the law for signers to:
   → Sign another person’s name under any circumstances.
   → Sign a petition more than one time.
   → Sign a petition when you are not qualified to sign it.

Local Petition Cover Sheet

SEL 369 rev. 01/22 ORS 250.015

[Stamp] RECEIVED
MAY 23 2023
CITY RECORDER

[Stamp] OK to Circulate
Snr. 5/23/2023
Signature Sheet

If this signature sheet is on white paper the circulator is a volunteer and is not being paid to gather signatures.

November 5, 2024

General Election

State Initiative

Petition ID 11

To the Secretary of State of Oregon: I am an active Oregon voter and request this petition be placed on the ballot for approval or rejection at the election listed.

Signature Sheet | State Initiative

Printed Name of Circulator

Circulator Signature

Date Signed mm/dd/yy

Initial any change you make to the date signed.

Residence or Mailing Address

Print Name

Date Signed mm/dd/yy

Initial any change you make to the date signed.

Circulator Certification

This certification must be completed by the circulator and additional signatures should not be collected on this sheet once the certification has been signed and dated.

10

9

8

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6

5

4

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2

1

It is a violation of state law and not being paid to gather signatures.

If this signature sheet is on white paper the circulator is a volunteer and is not being paid to gather signatures.

Establishes new voting method: voters score candidates from zero to five stars.
Establishes new voting method: voters score candidates from zero to five stars

Result of “Yes” Vote:  “Yes” vote establishes new voting method: voters score candidates zero to five stars. Between two candidates with most stars, winner is candidate more voters preferred.

Result of “No” Vote:  “No” vote maintains current voting method. Voters select only one candidate for each position on ballot. Candidate with most votes on single tally wins.

Summary: Measure establishes new voting method in which voters score all candidates from zero (worst) to five (best) stars, instead of casting single vote for an office. Equal scores allowed; blank score considered zero.

Candidates’ total stars across all ballots counted to determine two highest-scoring finalists. After finalists identified, each ballot counts as one vote for whichever finalist received more stars on that ballot. Finalist with most votes wins. In multi-seat elections, process repeats until seats filled. Includes tiebreaker provisions. Authorizes Secretary of State to adopt rules.

Applies to primary and general elections for president, congress, and state offices. Applies to local government elections unless a different method adopted. Primary elections for nonpartisan offices eliminated unless jurisdiction chooses otherwise. Ballots include information about process.

A full and correct copy of the text of the initiative petition is available from chief petitioners.

Chief Petitioners
Deanna Kallen  Zach Hudson  Bryan Lewis
Portland, Oregon  Troutdale, Oregon  Portland, Oregon

Instructions for Circulators
1 Only active Oregon voters may sign a petition. Ask each signer if they are an active registered voter in Oregon.
2 A single circulator must personally witness all signatures collected on any one signature sheet. After witnessing each signature on a sheet, use a pen to sign and date the circulator certification.
3 Initial any changes you make to the date you signed the certification. A complete list of allowable circulator certification corrections is provided in the Circulator Training Manual available at www.oregonvotes.gov.
4 It is against the law for circulators to:
   ➔ Circulate a petition containing a false signature.
   ➔ Make false statements to any person who signs the petition or requests information about it.
   ➔ Attempt to obtain the signature of a person who is not qualified to sign the petition.
   ➔ Offer money or anything of value to another person to sign or not sign the petition.
   ➔ Sell or offer to sell signature sheets.
   ➔ Write, alter, correct, clarify or obscure any information about the signers unless the signer is disabled and requests assistance or the signer initials after the changes are made.
   ➔ Accept compensation to circulate a petition that is based on the number of signatures obtained.

Warning Violations of the circulator requirements may result in conviction of a felony with a fine of up to $125,000 and/or prison for up to 5 years.

Instructions for Signers
1 Only active Oregon voters may sign a petition. Use a pen to sign your name, as you did when you registered to vote.
2 Provide the date you signed the petition, your printed name and residence address. Only you may complete this optional information.
3 Initial any changes the circulator makes to your printed name, residence address or date you signed the petition.
4 It is against the law for signers to:
   ➔ Sign another person’s name under any circumstances.
   ➔ Sign a petition more than one time.
   ➔ Sign a petition when you are not qualified to sign it.
STAR Voting Street Canvassing Script

Lead in:  Hi, I'm collecting signatures to get STAR Voting on the ballot for 2024. Are you registered to vote in Eugene? (Or if not, in Oregon?)

Intro:  With the current system you vote for one candidate only, and if your favorite can't win you maybe should vote Lesser Evil.

How do you vote with STAR Voting? (Show the example ballot!) With STAR Voting, you give your favorite(s) 5 stars, give your last choice(s) a zero, and score the other candidates as you like. The 5-star ballot lets you show who you prefer to who, and how much or little you like the candidates.

How are votes counted? To count the ballots, you add up all the scores and the two highest scoring candidates are finalists. Your ballot counts as one full vote for the finalist you scored higher. The finalist with the most votes wins.

Why STAR:

- Whether or not your favorite can win, your vote goes to the finalist you prefer, so even if your favorite can't win, your vote still makes a difference to help you get better representation.

- STAR Voting eliminates vote-splitting, so it's safe to vote your conscience without worrying about whether or not your favorite is "electable."

- STAR Voting is highly accurate with any number of candidates in the race, so for nonpartisan elections, there's no need for a primary. You would just vote once in the general election.

Elevator pitch: With the current voting system, you vote for one candidate only, and if you don't think your favorite can win, you might want to consider voting Lesser Evil. That's because our current system breaks in any race with more than two candidates. We can do a lot better! With STAR Voting, you score each candidate from zero up to five stars. Whether or not your favorite can win, your full vote automatically goes to the finalist you prefer so your vote can always make a difference and it's safe to vote your conscience.

Give them a mini-zine!
Instructions for Gathering Signatures

- Make sure your clipboard has everything you might need:
  - **Signature sheets with the cover sheet on the back.** Plus extras (5)!
  - **Full initiative text.**
  - Frequently Asked Questions.
  - Instructions for Gathering Signatures and Canvassing Script.
  - STAR Voting email list sign up.
  - ¼ Sheet Handouts (at least a few for showing people the ballot).
  - Zines to pass out (plenty).
  - **A good pen** and spares (black or blue).
  - Clear plastic cover sheet to protect from rain.

- **Give accurate information.** If unsure, consult the FAQ, or say: “I’m not sure, but you can check our website for more information.” **Be polite. Never argue!**

- Ask people to "**please write as small and clearly as possible.**" For the first person on each page ask them to **help set a good example and model good handwriting.** Abbreviations for the city such as PDX, Ptld, Eug are okay. Zip code is important!

- Only take signatures from **people currently registered to vote in Oregon.** (Oregon residents can register on the DMV website and it's effective immediately.) They should sign the same way they signed on their voter registration card using their current address as of that day. **Tell them to print clearly, remind them of the date,** and let them focus!

- **Check the sheet before they leave!** If needed, cross it out and try again! **All dates on your sheets must be in sequential order.** You must witness all signatures on your sheet yourself.

- **Don’t sign for anyone.** If someone is disabled and needs help writing clearly, you can help them with the printing. **Have them sign their signature afterwards.** Their signature has to match the one on record. **Don't alter what a signer has written,** unless the signer authorizes and initials the change.

- **People who may have already signed should not sign again!** Tell them when the petition started collecting and ask when they think they might have signed.

- You can gather signatures on public streets or property if you don’t impede pedestrians, but **you must get permission to gather signatures on private property** or at permitted events. When asking, make sure to specify this is nonpartisan. If asked to move on, say okay.

- **Don’t fill in the sheet number at the bottom right of the page!** This must be done by the Chief Petitioner at the end of the campaign.

- **When the page is full, sign and fill in your information as the circulator at the bottom.** If you are canvassing or tabling with others, it’s a good idea to print your name on your sheet so you don’t get your clipboards mixed up but **you can not sign and date your sheet until after the date on the last signature.** Turn in your completed sheets ASAP!

- **Email star4or@equal.vote** to turn in completed sheets and to get more supplies. Volunteer sig sheets must be printed b&w on **at least 20 pound, uncoated white paper.**
STAR Voting FAQ:

What's wrong with our current voting method?
- "Choose One" Plurality Voting is only accurate when there are two candidates in the race. That's why we have a two-party system.
- When there are more than two candidates, vote-splitting can cause a majority coalition to end up divided and conquered (aka the Spoiler Effect).
- Voters often have to be strategic and vote for the lesser of two evils.

What is STAR Voting?
- STAR Voting is a more expressive voting method using a 5-star ballot.
- Voters give their favorite(s) 5 stars, their last choice(s) 0 stars, and score other candidates as desired. You can score candidates equally if you don't have a preference, and scores show how much or how little you support each option.
- The two highest scoring candidates are finalists and your vote goes to the finalist you scored higher. The finalist with the most votes wins.

What are the two petitions?
- **STAR Voting for Eugene.** If adopted, Eugene would skip the primary and STAR Voting would be used in November for all local elections.
- **STAR Voting for Oregon.** If adopted, STAR Voting would become the default voting method for all Oregon elections, including local, statewide, federal, and presidential elections. By default, nonpartisan elections would skip the primary.
- STAR Voting for Oregon does **not** override jurisdictions like Benton County and Multnomah County that have decided to use other alternative voting methods.
- **Wasn't STAR Voting on the ballot before?** STAR Voting was on the ballot for Lane County in 2018. It almost passed, but a closer look at the results showed that Eugene voters voted YES by 54%. We're excited to try again and take this over the finish line!

How many verified signatures are needed?
- STAR Voting for Eugene needs 9,689 signatures by October 2nd, 2023.
- STAR Voting for Oregon needs 120,413 signatures by July 5th, 2024.

Is STAR Voting vulnerable to strategic voting?
- No. STAR Voting was invented to ensure that voters can and should vote their conscience. With STAR Voting, honesty is the best policy.
- In STAR, you should follow the instructions and give your favorite or favorite(s) 5 stars, your last choice(s) 0 stars, and show your honest preference order.
- Under the current system, if you don't vote for a frontrunner, you risk wasting your vote, and with RCV, ranking your favorite 1st can actually backfire in close elections.

What are the benefits of eliminating unnecessary primary elections?
- STAR Voting is highly accurate with any number of candidates in the race, so there's no need for a primary for nonpartisan elections in most cases.
- Oregon primaries generally have lower turnout than general elections, which means they aren't as representative as they could be.
- Eliminating unnecessary primaries makes running for office more accessible and affordable, shortens the campaign season, and saves taxpayers money.
Why not just go with Ranked Choice (RCV)?
- STAR Voting was invented to go further to deliver on the goals of RCV, while addressing valid concerns and known issues with RCV.
- In RCV, simple voter errors can invalidate your ballot. In STAR, scoring candidates equally is allowed and voters can vote however they want, so this is a non-issue.
- In RCV, not all rankings given are actually counted, and ignoring this ballot data leads to serious issues in competitive elections. STAR Voting is more accurate because all ballot data is counted and every ballot is included in the deciding round.
- STAR Voting is tallied in two rounds only, so it's simpler and more transparent, more resistant to strategy, and easier to officiate and audit.
- STAR Voting is tallied using addition so it can be tallied quickly and easily at the local level and it scales well, while RCV requires centralized tabulation, making it less secure, creating logistical and legal issues, and causing significant delays before results can be reported.

What happens in the STAR runoff if I gave both finalists the same scores?
- If you have a preference between candidates, you should show it, but regardless, the scores you give will always help your favorites advance.
- If you give both finalists the same score it will be counted as a vote of no-preference between those two. You like or dislike them equally.
- The ability to give candidates equal support, if desired, is critical for getting accurate results when there are many candidates in a race.

What about multi-winner and Proportional Representation (PR) elections?
- STAR Voting is adaptable and can be used for multi-winner races as well. There is a proportional representation version, called Proportional STAR Voting, that jurisdictions could adopt in the future if desired.

Would STAR Voting cost money or save money?
- STAR Voting would simplify and streamline our elections processes, and would save money in the long run. STAR Voting is compatible with our existing elections infrastructure and wouldn't require new equipment.
- Initial transition costs would likely be recouped within the first few election cycles.
- The main upfront costs would include voter education, software upgrades, and one-time certification costs.

Where has STAR Voting been used for elections to date?
- STAR Voting is being used increasingly frequently in both the public and private sector, including for Oregon political party elections at the local and statewide levels.
- To set up a STAR election or try it for yourself, go to star.vote

Is STAR Voting constitutional? Does it pass One-Person-One-Vote?
- Yes! Your ballot is your one vote and your one vote goes to the finalist you prefer.
- The legal definition of One-Person-One-Vote is an Equally-Weighted Vote. STAR Voting ensures that all votes are equally powerful no matter how many candidates you have on your side and whether or not your favorite can win.
- STAR Voting is not only fully constitutional in Oregon, but it's constitutional and legally viable all over the country.

Learn more at starvoting.org and equal.vote or info@equal.vote
2024 Proposed Amendments to Eugene City Charter, Sections 20 and 24:

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted.

Section 20. **Election.**

(1) Immediately after the votes at any municipal election have been canvassed and **tallied as provided in subsection (4) of this Section**, the city manager or designee shall issue a certificate of election to each person declared by the canvassers to have been elected. The certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated, but the city council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of the mayor and councilors, and in case of a contest between two or more persons claiming to be mayor or councilor, shall determine the contest.

(2) Commencing January 1, 2026, election of municipal officers shall be conducted according to STAR Voting as described in subsections (3) and (4) of this Section. The election of such officers shall occur at a November general election or at any special election and shall not include a primary election.

(3) A ballot shall be delivered to each registered elector, regardless of party affiliation.

(4) **Method of STAR Voting.**

(a) The voting method described below is known as STAR Voting and shall be referred to by the name "STAR Voting."

(b) For each seat up for election by means of STAR Voting, votes shall be tallied using a two-round process which consists of a scoring round and an automatic runoff round. The scoring round shall calculate the sum total of the scores received by each candidate and determine the two candidates who received the greatest total scores. Those two candidates shall be the finalists and shall advance to the automatic runoff round, where the finalist preferred by more voters wins.

(c) Characteristics of the ballot:

1. The ballot shall specify the number of winners in each race, if the number is more than one.

2. The ballot shall provide each elector the option to score each candidate for an office from zero to five stars.

3. The scoring scale shall be labeled "worst" (0 stars) to "best" (5 stars).

4. Each elector may score each candidate for an office from zero to five, independently of how the elector scores any of the other candidates for the elected office. An elector may give the same score to multiple candidates in the same race.

5. If the elector does not specify a score for a candidate, the score assigned is zero.

6. The ballot shall include instructions which convey the following information in clear and accessible language:
   - Give your favorite(s) five stars.
   - Give your last choice(s) zero stars.
   - Score other candidates as desired.
   - Equal scores indicate no preference.
   - Candidates left blank receive zero stars.

7. The ballot shall include an explanation of how votes will be tallied as described under subsection (4) of this section in clear and accessible language such as the following: STAR Voting races are tallied as follows: Scores given are totaled and the two highest scoring candidates overall advance as finalists to the automatic runoff. In the runoff, your vote goes to the finalist you scored higher. The finalist with the most votes wins.

(d) Vote tallying is conducted in two rounds:
1. Scoring round:
The vote tally system or counting board shall add the total scores given to each candidate from all ballots.
For each office, the two candidates who have the highest total scores shall be the finalists and advance to an
automatic runoff round.

2. Automatic Runoff round:
Each elector's vote shall be considered cast in favor of the finalist to whom that elector gave the higher score. If
an elector gave both finalists the same score, that elector's ballot will be considered a vote of "no preference"
between the finalists. The finalist in whose favor a greater number of votes are cast shall be the winner.

(e) If more than one seat is to be filled for a given office, the following STAR Voting multi-winner method shall be
used:
The first winner, as determined pursuant to paragraphs (b) - (d) of this subsection, is removed from the
calculations. The two remaining candidates who have the highest total scores shall be the finalists for the second
seat and shall advance to an automatic runoff round, which shall be conducted as specified in paragraph (d) of
this subsection in order to determine the next winner. This process of removing winners from the calculations,
advancing the two highest-scoring remaining candidates to the runoff round, and determining the additional
winner as specified in paragraph (d) of this subsection shall be repeated as many times as necessary to fill the
available seats.

(f) The winner of each automatic runoff shall be entitled to a certificate of election to office and shall be considered
the person who received the highest number of votes cast for purposes of ORS 254.065.

(g) Ties in STAR Voting that affect the outcome of the election shall be resolved as follows:
1. A tie in the scoring round shall be determined in favor of the candidate or candidates who were preferred
(scored higher) by more voters than any other of the tied candidates, if possible.

2. A tie in the automatic runoff round shall be determined in favor of the candidate with the highest overall
score in the scoring round, if possible.

3. If the above methods do not resolve a tie, it may be resolved under rules adopted by the City Council not
later than 60 days prior to the date of the election.

4. If a tie is not resolved by any of the above methods, the election shall be declared to be a tie and shall be
resolved pursuant to ORS 254.575 or applicable local government law.

(h) The City Council shall, by ordinance, establish rules for the orderly administration of the election using STAR
Voting.

Section 24. Vacancies - Filling.

(1) The Eugene Water & Electric Board shall fill a vacancy on the board by appointment within ninety days after the vacancy
occurs.

(2) The council shall fill a vacancy in any other elective city office by appointment within ninety days after the vacancy occurs.
A person so appointed shall hold office until the successor to the office is duly elected and qualifies therefor.

(3) If the position of a city councilor or mayor becomes vacant more than 100 calendar days prior to the [May] November
election of any year, an election to fill that vacancy shall be conducted in the same year. If the position of city councilor or
mayor becomes vacant less than 100 days prior to the [May] November election of any year, the election to fill that vacancy
shall be conducted the next year. [If a candidate for election to a vacated position achieves a majority of all votes cast for that
position in the May election, that candidate shall assume office the following July 1, notwithstanding Section 21 of this
charter.] The term of office of any person elected to fill a vacancy shall expire when the term of the vacated position expires.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), if the election required by this Section 24 would occur in the fourth year of the term of the
vacated position, then no election to fill the vacancy will be held. Instead, the individual appointed under subsection (2) will
remain in office through the expiration of the term of the vacated position.
STAR VOTING FOR OREGON ACT
(includes Presidential elections)

New sections are in **boldfaced type**. Matter in **boldfaced type** in an amended section is new; matter [*italic* and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

**SECTION 1. Legislative Findings.**

The People of the State of Oregon find that:

(1) Upgrading our electoral system to a modern, user-friendly, and more accurate voting method would significantly improve Oregon's political landscape by ensuring that every voter can vote their conscience, that our votes are able to make a difference, and that our system elects winners who better represent the will of the people.

(2) Modern electoral science has consistently shown that STAR Voting is the best voting method available to empower voters, to level the playing field, to remove barriers to entry for candidates, and to ensure our elections are fair and representative.

(3) The current voting method used in most Oregon elections, in which a voter can vote for only one candidate and the candidate with the most votes wins, is fundamentally flawed:

   (a) Voting for one's honest favorite can and often does backfire, if a voter's favorite isn't strong enough to win, and voters must strategically vote for a "lesser-of-two-evils" candidate to avoid wasting their votes.

   (b) This is due to a problem known as vote-splitting, where like-minded voters can end up effectively divided and conquered. Vote-splitting is common in elections with more than two candidates, even if the third candidate has no chance of winning. When vote-splitting results in the election of a candidate opposed by the majority of voters, it is known as the "Spoil er Effect."

   (c) Candidates who may have brought valuable ideas to the table are often pressured not to run because of vote-splitting concerns. Vote-splitting also makes elections subject to manipulation, and political operatives can fund non-viable candidates they actually oppose in order to split the vote and game the election.

   (d) The current system increases polarization and leads to two-party domination because it only works accurately with two candidates in the race. When there are more candidates, voters have to align with one of the two perceived front runners to avoid wasting their votes.

   (e) Voting for an underfunded candidate who may not be viable runs the risk of "wasting" your vote, so vote-splitting magnifies the already outsized influence of money in politics.

   (f) These problems are all easily solved by STAR Voting.

(4) STAR Voting uses a simple, familiar, five-star rating style ballot:

   (a) In STAR Voting, voters fill in the bubbles to score candidates from zero up to five stars. Voters give their favorite(s) five stars, their last choice(s) zero stars, and score other candidates as they like. The five-star ballot allows voters to show their preference order and indicate their level of support for all of the candidates. Voters are allowed to give candidates the same score, if they support them equally. Candidates left blank receive zero stars.
(b) STAR Voting ballots are counted using a two step process:

(A) Scoring Round: The scores from all ballots are added to determine the total score received by each candidate. The two highest scoring candidates are finalists who advance to an automatic runoff round.

(B) Runoff Round: The runoff round identifies the finalist who was preferred by more voters, with each ballot counted as one vote for the finalist that the voter scored higher. The finalist with the most votes wins.

(5) STAR Voting eliminates vote-splitting and elects more representative winners, even in competitive elections with larger fields of candidates.

(a) In STAR Voting, parties or factions which have more candidates running for office are not unfairly disadvantaged.

(b) STAR Voting strongly incentivizes voters to vote their conscience: to give their true favorite(s) five stars and to show their honest preference order among the other candidates on their ballot.

(c) In STAR Voting, whether or not a voter's favorite can win, their vote will make a difference, helping elect the finalist the voter prefers in the runoff round.

(d) STAR Voting elects majority-preferred winners.

(6) STAR Voting was invented, in part, to address well-documented shortcomings of another alternative voting method, the 150-year old Instant Runoff Voting method, commonly known as Ranked Choice Voting, which has demonstrably failed to deliver on many of its promised advantages.

(a) Ranked Choice allows voters to rank their choices but fails to count all of those rankings due to the tournament-style elimination process used. Ignoring voters' ballot data can skew the results of the election, producing counter-intuitive and unrepresentative results in close, competitive races.

(b) Ranked Choice requires the centralized processing of ballots, while Oregon law requires local county-by-county processing of ballots to maintain auditability and election integrity standards.

(c) Despite claims that Ranked Choice eliminates vote-splitting, elects majority winners, doesn't waste votes, that it's safe to vote your conscience, and that if your favorite is eliminated your next choice will be counted, real world elections have shown that these claims are not true for all elections.

(d) Ranked Choice has been repealed in a number of jurisdictions, is unconstitutional in a number of states, and has been banned by legislatures in three others.

(e) STAR Voting is the culmination of decades of research, innovation, and advances in the field of election science and does not exhibit the above problems. STAR Voting is a nationally viable proposal.

(7) STAR Voting offers a viable and user friendly alternative that:

(a) levels the playing field, reducing barriers to entry for candidates to run for office;

(b) empowers voters to support candidates, whether or not the candidates are well-funded, are incumbents, or are seen as front-runners;
(c) ensures that, if your favorite candidate can't win, your vote can still make a difference, which prevents wasted votes and makes strategic voting unnecessary;

(d) offers transparent processing, tabulation, and results;

(e) is logistically viable, legal, constitutional, and secure;

(f) ensures that every voter has an equally powerful vote, that the process is more inclusive, and that outcomes are more fair and representative;

(g) helps encourage disillusioned and disenfranchised voters to get involved and participate by ensuring that their votes can make a difference;

(h) gives voters more choices on their ballots while making the political process less polarized, less toxic, and more representative of Oregonians;

(i) is led by a local Oregon electoral reform movement, not out-of-state lobbyists;

(j) is compatible with Oregon's current electoral processes, equipment, and infrastructure;

(k) saves candidates and taxpayers money by eliminating the need for primaries in most non-partisan elections;

(l) has been successfully used for statewide party elections by both the Democratic Party and the Independent Party of Oregon and by county parties on both sides of the Cascades;

(m) has been authorized for use by the Libertarian Party of Oregon and endorsed by the Oregon Progressive Party; and

(n) has been proposed in bills to authorize STAR Voting at the statewide level submitted by both Republican and Democratic legislators in multiple states.

(8) This "STAR Voting for Oregon" Act will:

(a) make STAR Voting the default voting method for Oregon elections at every level (local, statewide, and federal offices), including presidential primaries and general elections in Oregon;

(b) save money by eliminating unnecessary primary elections; and

(c) make Oregon a model for more fair and representative elections.

SECTION 2. Sections 3 through 6 and 9 through 11 of this 2024 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 254.


(1) The method of voting set forth in this Act is known as STAR Voting and shall be referred to by the name "STAR Voting."

(2) For each seat up for election by means of STAR Voting, votes shall be tallied using a two-round process which consists of a scoring round and an automatic runoff round. The scoring round shall calculate the sum total of the scores received by each candidate and determine the two candidates who received the greatest total scores. Those two candidates shall be the finalists and shall advance to the automatic runoff round, where the finalist preferred by more voters wins.
(3) Characteristics of the ballot:

(a) The ballot shall specify the number of positions up for election, if the number is more than one.

(b) The ballot shall provide each elector the option to score each candidate for an office from zero to five stars.

(c) The scoring scale shall be labeled "worst" (0 stars) to "best" (5 stars).

(d) Each elector may score each candidate for an office from zero to five, independently of how the elector scores any of the other candidates for the elected office. An elector may give the same score to multiple candidates in the same race.

(e) If the elector does not specify a score for a candidate, the score assigned is zero.

(f) Every ballot using STAR Voting shall inform the elector of how to vote, how votes are to be cast, and how votes will be tallied as described under subsections (4) - (5) of this section.

(g) The instructions on the ballot shall state, at a minimum, the following basic information in clear and accessible language:

   (A) The elector should give the most favored candidate in each race five stars.

   (B) The elector should give the least favored candidate in each race zero stars.

   (C) Electors may score other candidates as they choose. Scores given indicate preference order and level of support.

   (D) An elector may give equal scores to multiple candidates in the same race.

   (E) Candidates left blank receive zero stars.

(4) In the scoring round:

(a) The vote tally system or counting board shall add the total scores given to each candidate from all ballots.

(b) For each office, the two candidates who have the highest total scores shall be the finalists and advance to an automatic runoff round.

(5) In the automatic runoff round:

(a) Each elector's vote shall be considered cast in favor of the finalist to whom that elector gave the higher score. If an elector gave both finalists the same score, that elector's ballot will be considered a vote of no preference between the finalists.

(b) The finalist in whose favor a greater number of votes are cast as determined under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be the winner.

(6) If more than one seat is to be filled for a given nomination or office, the following STAR Voting multi-winner method shall be used:

(a) The first winner, as determined pursuant to subsections (4) - (5) of this section, is removed from the calculations.
(b) The two remaining candidates who have the highest total scores shall be the finalists for the second seat and shall advance to an automatic runoff round, which shall be conducted as specified in subsection (5) of this section in order to determine the next winner.

(c) This process of removing winners from the calculations, advancing the two highest-scoring remaining candidates to the runoff round, and determining the additional winner as specified in subsection (5) of this section shall be repeated as many times as necessary to fill the available seats.

(7) The winner of each automatic runoff shall be entitled to a certificate of election to office and shall be considered the person who received the highest number of votes cast for purposes of ORS 254.065.

(8) Ties in STAR Voting that affect the outcome of the election shall be resolved as follows:

(a) A tie in the scoring round shall be determined in favor of the candidate or candidates who were preferred (scored higher) by more voters than any other of the tied candidates, if possible.

(b) A tie in the automatic runoff round shall be determined in favor of the candidate with the highest overall score in the scoring round, if possible.

(c) If the above methods do not resolve a tie, it may be resolved under rules adopted by the Secretary of State not later than 60 days prior to the date of the election.

(d) If a tie is not resolved by any of the above methods or by Secretary of State rules, the election shall be declared to be a tie and shall be resolved pursuant to ORS 254.575 or applicable local government law.

(9) The Secretary of State may adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this 2024 Act.


STAR Voting, as conducted in the method set forth in section 3 of this 2024 Act, shall be used to determine the nomination for and election to the following elected offices:

(1) All state offices, including:

(a) those elected by voters statewide;
(b) State Senator and State Representative;
(c) Circuit Court Judge; and
(d) District Attorney.

(2) All county, city, district, special district, and metropolitan service district offices, except where the legislative governing authority has adopted for its elections:

(a) Ranked Choice Voting or Approval Voting, adopted before the effective date of this 2024 Act; or
(b) Any voting method other than STAR Voting, adopted after the effective date of this 2024 Act.

(3) All federal offices, including President, Senator, and Representative.

(4) When STAR Voting is used to determine the winner(s) of an election to a nonpartisan office, there shall be no primary election as the default. Candidates may file declarations of candidacy up to 70 days before the date of the general election.
(5) The governing body of any jurisdiction which holds nonpartisan elections may choose to have a primary election for some or all of its nonpartisan offices, particularly in areas which frequently have large fields of candidates. That decision must be made at least 300 days before the date of the next general election for the nonpartisan office at issue. Such primary elections shall be conducted as follows:

(a) Candidates shall file nominating petitions or declarations of candidacy by the deadline established by ORS 249.037.

(b) If five or fewer candidates file timely nominating petitions or declarations of candidacy for a particular office, no primary election for that office shall occur, and all candidates for that office shall advance to the general election.

(c) If more than five candidates file timely nominating petitions or declarations of candidacy for a particular office, the primary election for that office shall use the STAR Voting multi-winner method set forth in subsection (6) of Section 3 of this 2024 Act to advance five candidates for that office to the general election.

(6) If Oregon law provides that a partisan primary election is open to all candidates and electors regardless of political party affiliation or non-affiliation:

(a) The election shall be conducted as set forth in paragraphs (a) through (c) of subsection (5) of Section 4 of this 2024 Act.

(b) In both the primary and associated general election, the county clerk shall print on the ballot, with the name of the candidate, the names of up to three political parties (qualified under ORS chapter 248) that have officially endorsed the candidate, if those endorsements have been accepted by the candidate and have been filed with the elections officer not later than the 61st day before the date of the election.

SECTION 5. Presidential Elections.

(1) Any government funded primary election to determine a political party's presidential nomination shall use STAR Voting.

(2) Delegates to a political party's national convention shall be allocated by either of the following methods:

(a) in proportion to the STAR Voting automatic runoff votes received by each finalist; or

(b) in proportion to each candidate's popular vote determined in accordance with Section 6 of this 2024 Act.

(3) STAR Voting shall be used to determine the winning candidates (President and Vice-President) in the general election.


(1) The "popular vote" under STAR Voting shall be determined as follows: Each candidate shall receive a "popular vote" from a voter, if on that voter's ballot the candidate received the highest score given for the office sought. If multiple candidates received the highest score given, each shall receive one popular vote.
(2) For the purpose of summing and reporting votes across jurisdictions which use different voting methods, under STAR Voting each candidate shall receive a number of votes equal to the "popular vote" as determined pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

(3) For purposes of maintaining status as a minor party under ORS 248.008, under STAR Voting each minor party candidate shall receive a number of votes equal to the "popular vote" as determined pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

SECTION 7. ORS 254.065 is amended to read:

254.065. Person receiving most votes nominated or elected; measure adopted by majority of votes; when measure conflicts.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, when one person is to be nominated for or elected to an office, the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be nominated or elected. When more than one person is to be nominated for or elected to a single office, the persons receiving the higher number of votes shall be nominated or elected. This subsection does not apply to a candidate for election to an office at a general election if the election for the office must be held at a special election as described in ORS 254.650.

(b) When a nomination for or election to an office is determined by STAR Voting, a determination of which person has received the highest number of votes shall be done by the method set forth in this 2024 Act.

(2) No measure shall be adopted unless it receives an affirmative majority of the total votes cast on the measure. If two or more conflicting laws, or amendments to the Constitution or charter, are approved at the same election, the law, or amendment, receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall be paramount regarding each conflict, even though the law, or amendment, may not have received the greatest majority of affirmative votes.

SECTION 8. ORS 254.145 is amended to read:

254.145. Design and contents of official ballots.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the names of candidates for nomination for or election to each office shall be arranged on the ballot in the order determined under ORS 254.155.

(b) The names of candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States shall be arranged in groups.

(2) Except as provided in ORS 254.125 and 254.135 and this section, no information about the candidate, including any title or designation, other than the candidate's name, may appear on the ballot.

(3) Spaces shall be provided for any offices appearing on the ballot in which the elector may write the name of any person not printed on the ballot. If a voting machine is used, spaces shall be provided on the ballot, or on separate material delivered to the elector with the ballot, in which the elector may write or enter the names of persons for any offices appearing on the ballot.

(4) On the left margin of the ballot, the name of each group or candidate may be numbered. The blank spaces may not be numbered. A particular number may not be used to designate more than one candidate at any election.

(5) The names of all candidates for the same office shall be listed in the same column on the ballot. If more than one column is needed to list names of all candidates for that office, the names may be arranged in one or
more columns in block form. The block shall be set apart by rulings under the title of the office. If a blank space follows the list of candidates, the space shall be in the same column as the names of candidates for that office. If blocks of columns are used, blank spaces shall be included within the ruled block.

(6) The ballot shall be clearly marked to indicate when names of candidates for the office are continued on the following page.

(7) When a measure is submitted to the people, the number, ballot title and financial estimates under ORS 250.125 of each measure shall be printed after the list of candidates. A measure referred by the Legislative Assembly shall be designated "Referred to the People by the Legislative Assembly." A state measure referred by petition shall be designated "Referendum Order by Petition of the People." A state measure proposed by initiative petition shall be designated "Proposed by Initiative Petition."

(8) The ballot shall be printed to give the elector a clear opportunity to designate the elector's choice or choices for candidates and approval or rejection of measures submitted.

(a) When an elector is allowed to make only one choice or answer and [I/] a voting machine is not used, the elector shall indicate a preference by making a cross or check mark inside a voting square corresponding to the candidate or answer for which the elector wishes to vote. A voting square may be printed on the blank, write-in vote spaces. However, the elector is not required to place a mark in the voting square corresponding to a name written in a blank space. Words shall be printed on the ballot to aid the elector, such as "Vote for one," "Vote for three," and regarding measures, "Yes" and "No."

(b) When a nomination for or an election to an office is determined by STAR Voting as provided in this 2024 Act, the ballot shall enable the elector to score from zero to five stars each of the candidates appearing on the ballot for the office.

SECTION 9. Funding.

To the extent that administering the provisions of this 2024 Act require additional funding, the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate, allocate or otherwise make available all necessary amounts from the General Fund.

SECTION 10. Conflicts, Severability, and Jurisprudence.

(1) To the extent any conflict exists, the provisions of this Act shall supersede any other law.

(2) For purposes of determining the constitutionality of the provisions of this Act, every section, subsection and subdivision thereof shall be evaluated separately. If any section, subsection or subdivision thereof is held invalid, the remaining sections, subsections and subdivisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect. The courts shall sever any sections, subsections or subdivisions thereof necessary to render this Act consistent with the United States Constitution, Oregon Constitution and federal law. Each section, subsection and subdivision thereof shall be considered severable, individually or in any combination.

SECTION 11. Operative Date and Preparation to Implement.

(1) This 2024 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2025.

(2) The Secretary of State and county clerks may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable them to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all the duties, functions and powers conferred on them by this 2024 Act.