

From: [Anne Pechovnik](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Amendment of Portland City Election Code
Date: Monday, April 10, 2023 5:29:13 PM

Members of the City Council,

I am a resident of northeast Portland, writing to urge that you approve the amendment to Code Chapter 2.08 - Election of Candidates. The proposed changes were developed by trusted officials - election administrators and attorneys - of both Multnomah County and the City of Portland, based on research and community input. You can have confidence that your yes vote will be in accordance with the will of Portland voters.

The ordinance before you is informed by research on election data in the growing number of jurisdictions using ranked choice voting. Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center provided advice in its development, based in their background as former election officials and experience with helping to implement RCV in other jurisdictions. Because I personally provided input about my perspective on RCV through the online survey conducted by city officials - and urged friends, neighbors, and family to do the same - I am also confident that where choices were practical, the proposal reflects the wishes of Portland residents.

Your approval of changes to the code will both satisfy the needs of our election officials to successfully conduct future elections, and will enact the will of your constituents, the people of the City of Portland, as expressed last November when Measure 26-228 was passed with approval of nearly 57% of voters.

As my representative, I urge you to do what is needed to ensure the success of the changes to elections and city government. In the near term, that means approval of recommended changes to the City Code Chapter 2.08. Longer term, that will mean providing robust funding of voter education, particularly in communities historically underrepresented in Portland City government. Investing now in voter education will provide for a healthier Portland of tomorrow as more if its citizens have a voice in local government.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Phyliss Ann Pechovnik
2030 NE 47th Avenue

From: [Debbie Kitchin](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 293
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 11:40:12 AM

Please see the attached testimony for Agenda Item 293.

Testimony on Implementing Ranked Choice Voting
Agenda Item 293
Submitted by Debbie Kitchin, Portland resident

Thank you, Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners, for the opportunity to speak today about implementing ranked choice voting. I was honored to be appointed by this body and to have served as a member of the Portland Charter Review Commission. I am here today to support the amendments to the Portland City Elections Code. I want to commend the work and collaboration of the City and Multnomah County staff and the ranked choice voting system experts that developed this ordinance. It is in strong alignment with what the Charter Commission intended and what voters approved. I urge you to vote yes to approve.

I think it is very important to note that it was the Charter Commission's intention to leave some of the policy details regarding elections up to code, to be adopted by city council, rather than putting them in the Charter. The City charter serves as the City's constitution, so it is at a very high level. It is not appropriate or prudent to put everything about city operations and policies in the charter. That would create an operating system that would be too rigid and not adaptable to changing conditions since any change to the charter must be approved by voters. The other places that policies and rules for city operations are expressed are in code and in administrative rules.

As a commission, we received extensive briefings from City attorneys and experts on what belongs in a charter and what types of details would be more appropriately represented in code. In addition, at many steps in the process, we discussed as a commission how to achieve our desired outcomes within the charter, understanding that some elements would be achieved through code. It came up often and on a number of issues and was an ongoing question for discussion. The election processes that are described in the ordinance before you are appropriately defined in code. This was the Charter commission's expectation and intention and was the result of careful deliberation. Again, I believe the ordinance before you is in strong alignment with what the Charter Amendments called for.

I would also like to say a few words in support of ranked choice voting. One of the Commission's desired outcomes was to have a participatory and growing democracy with more voices being heard in elections. Ranked choice voting allows voters to fully express their preferences without fear that their vote "won't count" because their first choice is not as

likely to win. Many voters are discouraged by the current system and do not feel motivated to vote. Feeling that their vote and preferences don't matter can lead to cynicism and lack of participation. Increasing participation helps our communities because people are more invested in the community when they feel their vote matters. Ranked choice voting can allow people to express their full preferences. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Debbie Kitchin
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From: [Jenny Lee](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on Council Item 293, April 12
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4:09:52 PM
Attachments: [Coalition of Communities of Color on Portland Elections Ordinance.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please see attached for testimony from the Coalition of Communities of Color in support of Council Item 293 scheduled for the April 12, 2023 2:00 PM Council meeting (Amend Portland City Elections Code to implement ranked choice voting approved by voters in Portland Measure 26-288 (replace Code Chapter 2.08)).

For the record, I am a registered lobbyist for the Coalition of Communities of Color.

Thank you,
Jenny Lee

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[Jenny Lee](#)
Deputy Director, Coalition of Communities of Color

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E jenny@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org
W www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org
Pronouns she/her/hers





RE: Amend Portland City Elections Code to implement ranked choice voting approved by voters in Portland Measure 26-288

April 12, 2023

Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the City of Portland Elections Code. My name is Jenny Lee, and I'm writing as a registered lobbyist for the Coalition of Communities of Color. We are an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice. For over twenty years, our coalition has worked to address institutional racism and economic disparities within our local and state systems and create viable pathways for communities of color to obtain self-determination, justice, and access to opportunities.

We are part of the coalition of organizations that represent Portland United for Change. For the last few years, we have engaged with the charter review process very closely, and helped support the passage of Measure 26-228. We respectfully urge the City to move forward with adopting the Portland City Elections Code as it is presented to the Council.

Administering these changes now is essential for ensuring that our election officials have the framework they need to move forward to successfully implementing ranked choice voting elections on time for the November 2024 election. The elections code sets policy decisions that the Charter Review Commission purposefully and correctly left out of the charter, to allow for our county elections administrators, city auditor's office, and lawyers to finalize details according to best practice and voter experience.

We are grateful to the staff team who worked to develop the code and how you partnered with national experts, and looked to other jurisdictions to understand the policy choices they have made in context with those that Portland had to make. From our perspective, the elections code is excellent, clear, and sets Portlanders up for success with using ranked choice voting. We encourage the City to continue seeking information, feedback, and examples of best practices from other jurisdictions, and from Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center, FairVote, and Democracy Rising, as well as community organizations. We also urge the City to partner with trusted community organizations to provide multilingual, multimodal, and culturally-specific outreach to communities throughout the city to ensure that all Portlanders are comfortable with their ballots come election day in 2024.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, we ask that you adopt the Portland City Elections Code. Thank you for your work throughout the City's transition process and your commitment to successful implementation of Measure 26-228.

Sincerely,

Jenny Lee, Deputy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color



RE: Amend Portland City Elections Code to implement ranked choice voting approved by voters in Portland Measure 26-288

April 12, 2023

Mayor Wheeler, City Commissioners, and staff,

My name is Mike Alfoni and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates. We are part of the coalition of organizations that represent Portland United for Change, and helped support the passage of Measure 26-228. I am testifying today to urge the City to move forward with amending the Portland City Elections Code as it is presented to the Council.

We are impressed with the thoughtful work the City has done thus far in amending the Elections Code. It has been clear throughout this process that the City has collaborated closely with national experts at the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center as well as considered lessons learned from cities that have already adopted ranked choice voting. The amendments to the City Elections Code clearly reflect the best practices of ranked choice voting elections and have thoughtfully incorporated the voter experience. Administering these changes now is a key step toward ensuring that our election officials have the framework they need to move forward to successfully implementing ranked choice voting elections.

As the City moves forward to voter education, we encourage a continued prioritization of best practices through partnership with the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center, FairVote, and Democracy Rising. Our organization coordinated closely with these national experts during the implementation of ranked choice voting in Benton County in 2016 and their expertise helped ensure voter education included not only the importance of how to rank candidates but why ranking candidates gives voters more power on their ballot. We also urge the City to partner with trusted community organizations to provide multilingual, multimodal, and culturally-specific outreach to communities throughout the city. With those partnerships the City can ensure all voters understand and are comfortable with their ballots come election day in 2024.

We appreciate the work the City is doing to create successful frameworks for our elections and ask the City to pass the ordinance.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mike Alfoni, he/him
Executive Director, Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates

From: [Mike Alfoni](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony - OR RCV for item 293
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 3:50:00 PM
Attachments: [Portland Testimony OR RCV.pdf](#)

Hi, attached is my testimony for today for item 293. Thank you!

Mike Alfoni
Executive Director
Oregon Ranked Choice Voting
C: (978) 380-2777
E: mike@oregonrcv.org

From: [Jude Stone](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Submitting ACLU OR Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:34:27 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[ACLU of Oregon Testimony Re Portland Elections Ordinance 2023.pdf](#)

Good morning!

I'm submitting written testimony on behalf of the ACLU of Oregon regarding the City Charter ordinance discussed in yesterday's council agenda. Please find it attached. Thank you!

Kind regards,

Jude al-Ghazal Stone
Pronouns: he, him, his

Associate
American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon
P.O. Box 40585 Portland, OR 97240
(480) 381 - 5386 | jghazalstone@aclu-or.org
aclu-or.org  



I have a new email address: jghazalstone@aclu-or.org. Please be sure to send all emails to my new address to ensure I receive them. Thank you!

Oregon's legislative session is here! Make an impact with us. Support our policy agenda and get connected by visiting our [2023 Legislative Session hub](#).



April 12, 2023

City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Amending Portland City Elections Code to implement ranked-choice voting approved by voters in Portland Measure 26-288

Mayor Wheeler, Council Commissioners, and City Staff:

My name is Yvonne Garcia; I am the Deputy Director of the ACLU of Oregon. The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 supporters statewide. We are one of the organizations that represent Portland United for Change, a coalition that helped support the passage of Measure 26-228. I am testifying today to urge the City to move forward with adopting the Portland City Elections Code as it is presented to the Council.

This elections ordinance is critical for guiding how City elections will be conducted and is a necessary step for implementing Measure 26-228. During the charter review process, the Charter Review Commission made the correct choice to leave election details out of the charter so they could be determined through City code. We appreciate the diligent and highly competent work of City and County staff on this ordinance, and their collaboration with the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center. The ordinance was clearly designed with voters' experiences in mind and reflects best practices for ranked-choice voting.

The passage of this elections code is a vital step for a thriving and representative democracy in Portland; County elections administrators rely on this ordinance to implement Measure 26-228. As the County moves forward with incorporating changes to our voting system and the City turns its focus to voter education, we urge the City to continue its emphasis on best practices, voter experience, and partnership with voter education groups and community organizations to ensure that all Portlanders are prepared for the change to their ballots. It is crucial that the City works with trusted community organizations to provide multilingual, multi-modal, and culturally specific outreach to communities throughout Portland to ensure that everyone has the resources they need to vote.

We appreciate the work that the City is doing to implement Measure 26-228, and ask you to pass the ordinance in continuance of that work.

Respectfully,

Yvonne Garcia, she/her
Deputy Director, ACLU of Oregon

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, April 12, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
293-01	Janice	Thompson
293-02	Richard	Fobes
293-03	Mark	Stephan
293-04	Melanie	Billings-Yun
293-05	Rochelle	Rosenberg
293-06	Christine	Neilsen
293-07	Margaret	Noel
293-08	Yvonne	Garcia
293-09	Mike	Alfoni
293-10	Ryan	Nielsen
293-11	Felice	Mueller
293-12	Debbie	Kitchin
293-13	Isabela	Villarreal
293-14	Bob	Weinstein
293-15	Hope	Beraka
293-16	Nadyne	Rosin