



Agenda Item 963

* Add Independent District Commission Code to ensure implementation of the voter-approved Charter amendments in Portland Measure 26-228. (Add Code Chapter 3.135)

Section 3-107: Council Districts

- There are four (4) City Council districts.
- Each district is represented by three (3) City Councilors.
- Total of twelve (12) City Councilors.

Section 3-108: Independent District Commission

- Has authority to adopt City Council district boundaries.
- Consists of thirteen (13) City residents representing a diversity of race, gender, age and geography.
- Prohibited from serving: Elected/appointed City officials, City employees, candidates for elected City office who are qualified for the ballot by the City Elections Office.
- Appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.
- First Commission must be confirmed no later than January 31, 2023. Thereafter, must be confirmed by March 31 in every year ending in "1."
- Commission's term ends upon adoption of a districting plan.
- City bureaus and departments will provide technical assistance upon Commission request.
- Commission's budget will be provided by City Council.

Section 3-109: Powers and Duties

Districing Plan

- The Commission prepares and adopts a districing plan for dividing the City into four (4) districts for the election of City Councilors.
- The plan includes a map and a description of districts.
- The vote of at least nine (9) members of the Commission is required to adopt the districing plan.
- A majority vote of the Commission is required for all other actions.

Section 3-109: Powers and Duties

Public Hearings

- Prior to developing the districting plan, the Commission will hold at least one (1) public hearing to seek public comment on which plan criteria should be considered (in addition to the criteria set forth in Section 3-110).
- The Commission will also hold at least two (2) public hearings in each proposed district not less than one (1) month before it votes to adopt the plan.
- The Commission will make its plan available to the public for inspection and comment not less than one (1) month before the public hearings in each proposed district.

Section 3-109: Powers and Duties

Plan Adoption

- The first Commission adopts its plan by September 1, 2023. Thereafter, the Commission adopts its plan by September 1 in every year ending in “1.”
- If the Commission adopts a plan, no further action by Council is required and the plan is final.
- If the Commission has not adopted a plan after taking two votes, the most recent version of the plan voted on by the Commission passes to the City Council for its consideration and adoption.
- The plan is effective when the Commission or the City Council files it with the City Elections Officer.

Section 3-110: District Plan Criteria

- The Commission, or the City Council if the Commission is unable to adopt a plan, ensures that each district, as nearly as practicable, will be contiguous and compact, utilize existing geographic or political boundaries, not divide communities of common interest, be connected by transportation links, and be of equal population.
- No district may be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent elected official or other person.
- No district may be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group.
- Additional criteria may be considered, consistent with state and federal law.