

The City needs to make realistic commitments to voters and ensure they are delivered

Audit Highlights | December 2019

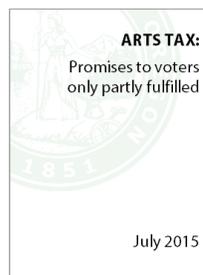
During our audits of programs created by several City-referred ballot measures, we noticed that the City's implementation of some accountability protections fell short of what had been promised.

Accountability measures often promised to voters:	Good practices to consider for future ballot measures:
 <p data-bbox="228 642 521 751">Commitments about what new resources would be used for</p>	<p data-bbox="602 600 1435 678">Commitments made to voters should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and when appropriate, time-bound.</p> <p data-bbox="602 722 1435 800">Programs funded with voter approved taxes and bonds should reflect commitments made to voters.</p>
 <p data-bbox="305 915 444 951">Oversight</p>	<p data-bbox="602 873 1511 993">Public committees are not always the best way to provide oversight. The City should consider the advantages and disadvantages when promising public involvement in program oversight.</p>
 <p data-bbox="272 1094 477 1167">Annual public reports</p>	<p data-bbox="602 1052 1468 1203">The promise of an annual report implies the release of a report each year, regardless if there is progress. Annual reports should inform the reader about how the City is doing compared to what was promised.</p>
 <p data-bbox="321 1310 428 1383">Annual audits</p>	<p data-bbox="602 1262 1468 1413">The City must determine what it wants from a review or audit, describe this in the fiscal impact statement, and write language for the ballot that appropriately conveys how it plans to fulfill the commitment.</p>
 <p data-bbox="266 1505 482 1579">Administrative cap</p>	<p data-bbox="602 1482 1495 1602">The City needs to assess the administrative burdens and costs to deliver all aspects of a program, including accountability measures, and make commitments to voters that are realistic and achievable.</p>

Visit the Audit Services' webpage for the full report and the four recent audits referred to in the report:

www.portlandoregon.gov/auditservices/taxaccountability

ARTS TAX:
Promises to voters only partly fulfilled



July 2015

RECREATIONAL CANNABIS TAX:
Greater transparency and accountability needed



May 2019

FIXING OUR STREETS:
Some accountability commitments not fulfilled



May 2019

PORTLAND HOUSING BOND:
Early implementation results mostly encouraging



June 2019



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