

Proposed Ballot Measure for Eugene, Oregon

Population is 167,000 City Budget is \$676 million City Manager has executive authority
Elected Auditor has about 3 performance audit staff and a \$670,000 budget

The group called City Accountability has proposed charter amendments to establish an Office of the Independent Auditor for the City of Eugene. The elected auditor will provide objective, timely and accurate information about city operations to promote improved decision-making, service delivery and cost savings, as well as improve transparency and accountability to the public for city operations.

DUTIES OF AUDITOR By charter, the auditor conducts financial, compliance, performance, special studies or other audits of all aspects of the city's government operations. The auditor also oversees any audits contracted for and funded by the city. By charter, the auditor maintains a website with audits and reports and establishes a whistleblower hotline.

INDEPENDENCE The auditor is non-partisan, serves a four-year term and is responsible to the voters. The auditor supervises all staff in the auditor office and can secure independent legal counsel or the help of other professionals. The auditor prepares a work plan and seeks review and comment but not approval.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION By charter, the auditor has access to all records, personnel and contracts. All city contracts will include a "right to audit" clause. By charter, the auditor may subpoena records, if necessary.

ACCOUNTABILITY To run for office, the auditor must be certified and have five years of recent experience. The auditor may be recalled. The auditor will follow generally accepted standards. All reports and audits will be posted publicly. Nothing in the charter amendments prohibit an audit committee, but none is required.

FUNDING The auditor prepares a budget for the office that is not less than 0.1% of Eugene's total annual budget. The proposed charter amendments also set the auditor's compensation (not less than 70% of the average of the salaries of the Eugene city manager, Salem city manager and EWEB general manager) and benefits.

OTHER UNIQUE PROVISIONS The auditor will follow up to determine if corrective action by audited entities was taken. There is no clarity at present as to whether EWEB would be subject to the audit authority of this new office.