

## 1992 Metro Charter Explanatory Statement:

This ballot measure is a home rule charter for the Portland area metropolitan service district (MSD) named "Metro." If approved, it will be effective January 1, 1993.

The State Constitution gives Metro jurisdiction over matters of metropolitan concern. The charter assigns Metro certain functions within that authority and sets forth the way Metro can assume additional functions.

The charter says the primary function of Metro is regional planning. Metro must adopt a Future Vision with citizen commission help and then a regional framework plan (RFP). The Future Vision indicates population levels and settlement patterns the region can handle within its natural and other resources over at least 50 years. The RFP addresses regional transportation/mass transit, urban growth boundary management, housing densities, urban design, parks, water, interstate coordination, state-mandated responsibilities, and others Metro may add. To the extent the law allows, Metro must require city and county comprehensive plans and land use decisions to be consistent with the RFP.

The charter also assigns Metro other functions: a metropolitan zoo; public convention, sports, entertainment, and spectator facilities; disposing of solid and liquid wastes; green-spaces; natural disaster planning; data services; and state-mandated functions. To assume other functions, Metro by ordinance must find the function is of metropolitan concern and state why Metro should perform it. If a new function provides or regulates a service provided by any local government, the ordinance must also be approved by Metro voters or a committee of fifteen local government officials and three public members.

Metro may levy taxes and incur debt, subject to state law and the charter. General obligation bonds and, with certain exceptions, broadly-based generally applied taxes require voter approval. Metro must form and seek the advice of a tax study committee before levying a tax not requiring voter approval. Metro may also impose user and other fees/charges.

Subject to certain exceptions, the charter limits Metro spending from taxes levied without voter approval to \$12,500,000 in the first fiscal year of the charter. That limitation is subject to annual adjustment based on the consumer price index.

The Metro structure is a council elected by districts, and a full-time executive officer and full-time auditor elected at large, for nonpartisan terms of four years. The executive officer is limited to two consecutive terms and councilors to three. There is no term limit for the auditor. Until 1995 the thirteen MSD councilors are the Metro council and the MSD executive officer holds that Metro office. The council has seven members starting in 1995, with new districts apportioned for 1994 election by a commission or, if necessary, a referee. The charter sets the salary for the executive officer at \$69,700; the auditor, \$55,760; the council presiding officer, \$46,466.67; and the councilors, \$23,233.33. Salary levels will change with changes in salary of District Court judges.

Other charter provisions address matters like officer qualifications, elections, vacancies, appointments, charter amendment, and initiative, referendum, and recall.