

# Voters strongly approve home-rule charter for Metro

■ A proposal for \$200 million in bonds to buy park land and other green areas gets a cold reception at the polls

By GEORGE REDE

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Voters resoundingly approved a home-rule charter to revamp Metro, the area's regional government, but a \$200 million greenspaces bond measure was headed to defeat Tuesday night.

In three contested races for seats on the Metro Council, voters elected Mike Gates in Clackamas County's District 5, Ed Washington in Northeast Portland's District 11 and Terry Moore in east Washington County's District 13.

Partial returns showed voters rejecting the bond measure in all three metropolitan counties. It was losing

narrowly in Multnomah County and losing big in Clackamas and Washington counties. The greenspaces proposal authorized Metro to issue general obligation bonds to buy land for open space and natural areas. One-fourth of the bond money would go to local governments to spend on their park programs.

A wide array of business and environmental groups supported the measure, saying it was needed to preserve the region's livability in the face of rapid urban development.

Critics had argued that Metro was putting parks and wildlife ahead of people and more pressing services such as police and libraries.

Metro Executive Rena Cusma held onto fading hopes that the greenspaces measure would pass. "If it fails, our polling showed a big group of people out there who didn't know anything about the program."

The home-rule charter, winning approval by a 3-2 ratio, would re-

move legislative control over Metro and give it to district voters in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.

Fashioned by a 16-member committee, the charter would reduce the Metro Council from 13 to seven members and would provide them with salaries for the first time.

Metro would continue disposing of the region's garbage, running the Washington Park Zoo and doing transportation planning — but planning for growth would become its primary mission. The charter sets limits on taxes Metro could raise without voter approval and creates a committee of local officials with the power to approve new functions for Metro.

In District 5, Gates, a West Linn city councilor and insurance agent, defeated Bill Atherton, a Lake Oswego businessman and building rede-

veloper, by a 3-2 ratio. The district covers the southern half of Lake Oswego, all of West Linn, Oregon City and Gladstone, and the unincorporated Jennings Lodge and Oak Grove areas.

In District 11, Washington, a retired marketing specialist for U S West Communications, cruised past Joe Ross, a retired salesman and Tri-Met driver.

Washington defeated Ross in the May primary to fill an unexpired term. However, they had to run again because state law requires in elections to fill vacancies that the two top candidates must still appear on the general election ballot.

In District 13, Moore, a Raleigh Hills-Garden Home neighborhood leader and secretary to the Portland Planning Commission, whipped Wes Myllenbeck, a former chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Moore will represent the area covering mostly unincorporated suburban areas east and north of Beaverton.

METRO	
Here are incomplete returns in Tuesday's Metropolitan Service District elections:	
District 5	
Bill Atherton	3,461
Mike Gates	5,547
District 11	
Joe Ross	2,549
Ed Washington	6,347
District 13	
Terry Moore	3,605
Wes Myllenbeck	2,271
Measure 26-1: Bonds to buy natural areas and fund local parks	
Yes	66,202
No	77,283
Measure 26-3: Charter to limit Metro powers, reform structure, give voters control	
Yes	83,647
No	53,612
The Oregonian	