



Information Sheet: Springfield's Charter Amendment 20-223 Council and Mayor Stipend

Background:

The Springfield Mayor and Council are volunteers. The Springfield Charter states: "No Councilor or Mayor may receive compensation for serving in that capacity. The Council may prescribe a plan for reimbursing Mayor and City Council for expenses they incur in serving the City." In Springfield, reimbursement for mileage, technology fees, etc. is available.

The Mayor and City Councilors typically spend 25-35 hours per week attending council meetings, answering constituent emails and reviewing the materials prepared for each week's Council agenda. They are also asked to attend multiple city-related and inter-governmental meetings during the week and events on nights and weekends on behalf of the community. At times the Mayor and Councilors use personal vacation time from their jobs in order to attend events and meetings on behalf of the city.

City review of the potential charter amendment:

In 2013, a small sub-committee made up of members of the City Council, the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Office met on several occasions to review the need for an update of the City Charter to allow for a reasonable monthly compensation. After discussion and reviewing council compensation from across the state, the sub-committee recommended a \$300 per month stipend for each councilor and a \$500 per month stipend for the Mayor. The issue was then forwarded by the City Council to the Springfield Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) for review and direction.

After meeting, producing a survey and holding a public hearing, the CCI recommended that the Council move forward in placing a Charter amendment regarding Council compensation on the ballot in November, 2014.

Draft ballot title and Charter language items are attached for discussion. The draft items contain the previously discussed amounts of \$300 and \$500 per month, respectively.

The financial impact for implementing this stipend at \$300 and \$500 would be \$27,600 per fiscal year.

Comparisons to other Oregon Cities (as of 2013):

City of Eugene: Mayor \$1,815 / Councilors \$1,210 per month adjusted annually. Mayor and Councilors may purchase health insurance.

City of Tigard: Mayor \$3,600 / Councilors \$475 per month

City of Bandon: Mayor \$200 / Councilors \$100 per month

City of Wilsonville: Mayor \$750 / Councilors \$375 per month

City of Corvallis – No stipends

Cost to the taxpayer:

This includes those who own commercial and residential property but do not reside in Springfield.

Election Date:

November 4, 2014. The ballots will be mailed to Springfield voters approximately two-weeks prior to the election date.

Register to vote:

Any registered voter who resides in Springfield. You can get a mail-in registration form at any City of Springfield office, Lane County Elections (275 W. 10th Avenue in Eugene), the post office, at many financial institutions or online at www.lanecounty.org.

For more information:

- Call the City Manager's Office at 541.726.3700
- Email us at nlaudati@springfield-or.gov
- Call or drop by any City of Springfield office and ask for more information about the City measure.
- Request a speaker to present a fact-based informational presentation on the levies by calling 726-3700

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