

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO)	ORDINANCE NO. 25-1528
CODE CHAPTER 9.02 (BALLOT MEASURES,)	
INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM) TO)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
IMPROVE CLARITY AND INCORPORATE)	Marissa Madrigal in concurrence with
PLAIN LANGUAGE BEST PRACTICES AND)	Council President Lynn Peterson
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY)	

WHEREAS, the Office of Metro Attorney reviews Metro Code chapters when circumstances arise that require Metro to adhere to the requirements and processes outlined in Metro Code, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Metro Attorney also reviews Metro Code chapters to ensure they properly align and comport with state and constitutional law; and

WHEREAS, Metro Code Chapter 9.02 (Ballot Measures, Initiative and Referendum) supplements state law regarding special district elections, ballot measures, initiatives, and referendums; and

WHEREAS, when recently reviewing Metro Code Chapter 9.02's requirements related to Metro Council referrals, the Office of Metro Attorney determined that Metro Code Chapter 9.02 currently contains an unnecessary, potentially confusing, and constitutionally inapplicable code requirement related to Metro Council referrals and that this requirement should be removed; and

WHEREAS, in December 2022 the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 22-5293, which, among other things, required that Metro code chapters use plain and inclusive language best practices to improve readability, transparency, and understanding of Metro's requirements and procedures, and further required that when staff brings forth a code update for Metro Council consideration staff should also conduct a review of the entire code chapter for potential plain language improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Metro Attorney has conducted a review of Metro Code Chapter 9.02 in its entirety and has incorporated plain language best practices that improve readability without substantively changing Metro Council policy; now therefore,

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Metro Code Chapter 9.02 (Ballot Measures, Initiative and Referendum) is amended as set forth in Exhibit A, with inserted text underlined and deleted text in strikethrough.
2. That this ordinance being necessary for the immediate preservation of public health, safety and welfare to ensure the Metro Council can refer measures expeditiously to the voters with clarity of Metro Code requirements, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance takes effect immediately upon adoption pursuant to Metro Charter Section 38(1).

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 27th day of February 2025.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

Georgia Langer, Acting Recording Secretary

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney