

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Rules

MEASURE: HB 2957 A
CARRIER: Rep. Barnhart

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/16/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/23, 03/16

Vote:

Yeas:	6 - Barnhart, Hoyle, Kennemer, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner
Nays:	2 - McLane, Wilson
Exc:	1 - Gilliam

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes specific dates for elections on county, city and district measures that are not referred to people by county governing body, city governing body or district elections authority. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current timeline for local governing body to hold election for initiative or referendum
- Cost of special election to local governing body
- Turnout for special elections in relationship to primary or general election
- Limitation on local elections to even-numbered years
- Process for conducting local government election on referendum

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Directs local government initiative and referenda to May or November elections in odd- and even-numbered years.

BACKGROUND:

The initiative and referendum process is a method of direct democracy that allows people to propose or amend charters or ordinances or to adopt or reject an ordinance or other legislative enactment passed by a local governing body. If a chief petitioner gathers and submits the required number of signatures, the initiative or referendum is placed on the ballot for voters to adopt or reject.

However, the timeline for a local governing body to hold an election on an initiative or referenda may require a special election, even if a primary or general election is forthcoming. Conducting an election, outside of the designated primary and general elections, can be costly for a local government. House Bill 2957-A directs citizen initiatives and referenda measures on county, city or district issues to the regularly scheduled election in May or November, in odd- and even-numbered years.