

CHAPTER 552

AN ACT

HB 2873

Relating to municipal corporation elections; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 254.095, 254.103, 255.085 and 294.311.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 294.311 is amended to read:

294.311. As used in ORS 294.305 to 294.565, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Accrual basis" means the recording of the financial effects on a municipal corporation of transactions and other events and circumstances that have cash consequences for the municipal corporation in the periods in which those transactions, events and circumstances occur, rather than only in the periods in which cash is received or paid by the municipal corporation.

(2) "Activity" means a specific and distinguishable service performed by one or more organizational components of a municipal corporation to accomplish a function for which the municipal corporation is responsible.

(3) "Appropriation" means an authorization granted by the governing body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is limited to a single fiscal year for municipal corporations preparing annual budgets, or to the budget period for municipal corporations preparing biennial budgets.

(4) "Basis of accounting" means the cash basis, the modified accrual basis or the accrual basis.

(5) "Budget" means a plan of financial operation embodying an estimate of expenditures for a given period or purpose and the proposed means of financing the estimated expenditures.

(6) "Budget document" means the estimates of expenditures and budget resources as set forth on the estimate sheets, tax levy and the financial summary.

(7) "Budget period" means, for municipal corporations with the power to levy a tax upon property, the two-year period commencing on July 1 and closing on June 30 of the second calendar year next following, and for all other municipal corporations, an accounting period of 24 months ending on the last day of any month.

(8) "Budget resources" means resources to which recourse can be had to meet obligations and expenditures during the fiscal year or budget period covered by the budget.

(9) "Cash basis" means a basis of accounting under which transactions are recognized only in the period during which cash is received or disbursed.

(10) "Current budget period" means the budget period in progress.

(11) "Current year" means the fiscal year in progress.

(12) "Encumbrance accounting" means the method of accounting under which outstanding en-

cumbrances are recognized as reductions of appropriations and the related commitments are carried in a reserve for encumbrances until liquidated, either by replacement with an actual liability or by cancellation. This method of accounting may be used as a modification to the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

(13) "Encumbrances" means obligations in the form of purchase orders, contracts or salary commitments which are chargeable to an appropriation and for which a part of the appropriation is reserved. Obligations cease to be encumbrances when paid or when the actual liability is set up.

(14) "Ensuuing budget period" means the budget period following the current budget period.

(15) "Ensuuing year" means the fiscal year following the current year.

(16) "Expenditure" means, if the accounts are kept on the accrual basis or the modified accrual basis, decreases in net financial resources and may include encumbrances. If the accounts are kept on the cash basis, the term covers only actual disbursement, the drawing of the check or warrant for these purposes and not encumbrances, except that deferred employee compensation shall be included as a personnel service expenditure where an approved deferred employee compensation plan is in effect for a municipal corporation.

(17) "Fiscal year" means for municipal corporations with the power to impose ad valorem property taxes, the fiscal year commencing on July 1 and closing on June 30, and for all other municipal corporations, an accounting period of 12 months ending on the last day of any month.

(18) "Fund balance" means the excess of the assets of a fund over its liabilities and reserves except in the case of funds subject to budgetary accounting where, prior to the end of a fiscal period, it represents the excess of the fund's assets and estimated revenues for the period over its liabilities, reserves and appropriations for the period.

(19) "General county resources" means resources from property taxes, state and federal shared revenue, beginning balances available for expenditure and interest not required to be allocated to specific programs or activities.

(20) "Governing body" means the city council, board of commissioners, board of directors, county court or other managing board of a municipal corporation including a board managing a municipally owned public utility or a dock commission.

(21) "Grant" means a donation or contribution of cash to a governmental unit by a third party.

(22) "Intergovernmental entity" means an entity created under ORS 190.010 (5). The term includes any council of governments created prior to the enactment of ORS 190.010 (5).

(23) "Internal service fund" means a fund properly authorized to finance, on a cost reimbursement basis, goods or services provided by one organizational unit of a municipal corporation to other organizational units of the municipal corporation.

(24) “Liabilities” means probable future sacrifices of economic benefits, arising from present obligations of a municipal corporation to transfer assets or provide services to other entities in the future as a result of past transactions or events. The term does not include encumbrances.

(25)(a) “Modified accrual basis” means the accrual basis of accounting adapted to the governmental fund-type measurement focus. Under this basis of accounting, revenues and other financial resource increments, such as bond proceeds, are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual, that is, when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures in the current period.

(b) As used in this subsection, “available” means collectible in the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Under this basis of accounting, expenditures are recognized when the fund liability is incurred except for:

(A) Inventories of material and supplies that may be considered expenditures either when purchased or when used; and

(B) Prepaid insurance and similar items that may be considered expenditures either when paid for or when consumed.

(26) “Municipal corporation” means any county, city, port, school district, union high school district, community college district and all other public or quasi-public corporations including a municipal utility or dock commission operated by a separate board or commission. “Municipal corporation” includes an intergovernmental entity or council of governments that proposes to impose or imposes ad valorem property taxes.

(27) “Net working capital” means the sum of the cash, cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable expected to be converted to cash during the ensuing year or ensuing budget period, inventories, supplies and prepaid expenses less current liabilities and, if encumbrance accounting is adopted, reserve for encumbrances. The term is not applicable to the cash basis of accounting.

(28) “Object” means, as used in expenditure classification, articles purchased including, but not limited to, land, buildings, equipment and vehicles, or services obtained including, but not limited to, administrative services, clerical services, professional services, property services and travel, as distinguished from the results obtained from expenditures.

(29) “Object classification” means a grouping of expenditures on the basis of goods or services purchased, including, but not limited to, personnel services, materials, supplies and equipment.

(30) “Operating taxes” has the meaning given that term in ORS 310.055.

(31) “Organizational unit” means any administrative subdivision of a municipal corporation, especially one charged with carrying on one or more functions or activities.

(32) “Population” means the number of inhabitants of a municipal corporation according to certified estimates of population made by Portland State University.

(33) “Program” means a group of related activities aimed at accomplishing a major service or function for which the municipality is responsible.

(34) “Public utility” means those public utility operations authorized by ORS chapter 225.

(35) “Publish” or “publication” means any one or more of the following methods of giving notice or making information or documents available to members of the general public:

(a) Publication in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the jurisdictional boundaries of the municipal corporation.

(b) Posting through the United States Postal Service by first class mail, postage prepaid, to each street address within the jurisdictional boundaries of the municipal corporation and to each post office box and rural route number belonging to a resident within the jurisdictional boundaries of the municipal corporation.

(c) Hand delivery to each street address within the jurisdictional boundaries of the municipal corporation.

(d) In the case of publishing notice for an election involving a local option tax measure or a general obligation bond measure, filing with the Secretary of State for publication on the electronic filing system adopted under ORS 260.057.

(36) “Receipts” means cash received unless otherwise qualified.

(37) “Reserve for encumbrances” means a reserve representing the segregation of a portion of a fund balance to provide for unliquidated encumbrances.

(38) “Revenue” means the gross receipts and receivables of a governmental unit derived from taxes, licenses, fees and from all other sources, but excluding appropriations, allotments and return of principal from investment of surplus funds.

(39) “Special revenue fund” means a fund properly authorized and used to finance particular activities from the receipts of specific taxes or other revenues.

SECTION 2. Section 3 of this 2017 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 294.305 to 294.565.

SECTION 3. If a municipal corporation places a local option tax measure or a general obligation bond measure on the ballot to be voted on by the electors of the corporation, the chief elections officer of a city, governing body of a county or district elections authority responsible for filing materials relating to the measure under ORS 254.095 (2), 254.103 (1) or 255.085 (1) shall file the materials with the appropriate county elections officer. The county elections official shall file a copy of the materi-

als with the Secretary of State for publication on the electronic filing system adopted under ORS 260.057.

SECTION 4. ORS 254.095 is amended to read:

254.095. (1) The chief elections officer of any city shall file with the county clerk of the county in which the city hall of the city is located, a statement of the city offices to be filled or for which candidates are to be nominated at the election and information concerning all candidates for the offices not later than the 61st day before the date of the election.

(2)(a) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the chief elections officer of any city shall file with the county clerk of the county in which the city hall is located, a statement of the city measures to be voted on, including the ballot title for each measure, not later than the 61st day before the date of the election.

(b) **For each local option tax measure or general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot by a municipal corporation, the county clerk shall file a copy of the statement filed under paragraph (a) of this subsection with the Secretary of State in the manner set forth in section 3 of this 2017 Act.**

(3) If a measure to be submitted to the electors of a city at an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November was submitted on the election date in ORS 221.230 (1) immediately preceding the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the chief elections officer of the city shall file the statement required for that measure in subsection (2) of this section on the 47th day before an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

(4) The chief elections officer of the city shall keep a copy of each statement filed under this section.

(5) If a city is located in more than one county, the county clerk under subsection (1) of this section shall immediately file the statement and information required under subsection (1) of this section with the county clerk of any other county in which the city is located.

SECTION 5. ORS 254.103 is amended to read:

254.103. (1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the governing body of a county shall file with the county clerk each measure referred by the county governing body, including the ballot title for each measure, not later than the 61st day before the date of the election.

(b) **For each local option tax measure or general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot by a municipal corporation, the county clerk shall file a copy of each measure filed under paragraph (a) of this subsection with the Secretary of State in the manner set forth in section 3 of this 2017 Act.**

(2) If a measure to be submitted to the electors of a county at an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November was submitted

on the election date in ORS 203.085 (1) immediately preceding the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the county governing body shall file the measure with the county clerk not later than the 47th day before an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

SECTION 6. ORS 255.085 is amended to read:

255.085. (1)(a) Not later than the 61st day before a district election on a measure, the district elections authority shall deliver to the elections officer a notice stating the date of the election and a ballot title. The district elections authority shall prepare the ballot title for a measure referred by the authority with the assistance of the district attorney for the county of the elections officer or an attorney employed by the district elections authority.

(b) **For each local option tax measure or general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot by a municipal corporation, the elections officer shall file a copy of the notice delivered under paragraph (a) of this subsection with the Secretary of State in the manner set forth in section 3 of this 2017 Act.**

(2) If a district submits a measure to the electors of the district at an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and the district submitted a measure on the election date in ORS 255.345 (1) immediately preceding the date of an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the district elections authority shall file the measure for the election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November with the elections officer not later than the 47th day before an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

(3) A notice of election called to approve the issuance of bonds shall include:

(a) The purpose for which the bonds are to be used;

(b) The amount and the term of the bonds;

(c) The kind of bonds proposed to be issued; and

(d) If the bond election is authorized by ORS 450.900, the additional notice requirements in ORS 450.905.

(4)(a) In the case of a measure submitted by initiative or referendum petition, the elections officer shall publish the notice in the next available edition of a newspaper of general circulation in the district after the deadline for filing the notice.

(b) In the case of a measure referred by the district elections authority, the elections officer shall publish the notice of election in the next available edition of a newspaper of general circulation in the district after the notice of election is filed. The notice shall also state that an elector may file a petition for review of the ballot title not later than the date referred to in ORS 255.155. If the circuit court certifies a different ballot title, the elections officer shall publish an amended notice of election in the next available edition of the newspaper referred to in this subsection after the new title is certified to the elections officer.

(c) In addition to publishing the notice as described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, the elections officer may publish the notice on the county's website for a minimum of seven days.

SECTION 7. Section 3 of this 2017 Act and the amendments to ORS 254.095, 254.103, 255.085

and 294.311 by sections 1 and 4 to 6 of this 2017 Act apply to measures that will be voted on by the electors of a municipal corporation on or after the effective date of this 2017 Act.

Approved by the Governor July 6, 2017
Filed in the office of Secretary of State July 6, 2017
Effective date January 1, 2018
