

Order 201-11/12

Given first reading on 5/21/12

Passage 7-1 (Mavodones)(Coyne absent) 6-4-12

MICHAEL F. BRENNAN (MAYOR)
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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CHARTER
ARTICLE II, SECTION 2 (CITY COUNCIL)
RE: TERM OF AT LARGE COUNCIL SEAT

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND,
MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1. That Article II (City Council), Section 2 of the Portland City Charter is hereby amended to read as follows:*

Section 2. Composition, election, tenure of office.

The city council shall be composed of nine (9) members, including the mayor who shall be one of the nine (9) members of the city council, and shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors are elected and qualified, except as provided below for the term of mayor and for one at large seat in the election of 2013 only. Four (4) members, including the mayor, shall be elected at large from and by the registered voters of the entire city, and one (1) shall be elected from each of the five (5) districts heretofore provided for, from and by the registered voters of each district. References in this charter to the city council, councilors, council, its members or membership, shall be deemed to include the mayor, unless otherwise specifically provided.

For the municipal election in November of 2013, one of the two at large seats up for election shall have a one-time four year term ending in 2017. Thereafter, the council term shall return to be three (3) years for this seat. The city clerk shall designate which seat shall be for the four (4) year term prior to the availability of nomination papers for the 2013 election, and nomination papers shall be separately issued for each of the two at large seats. Each at large candidate may take out and file nomination papers for only one of the at large seats. The municipal ballot will list the 4-year and 3-year council seats as separate questions.

All candidates must be residents of the city for a period of at least three (3) months prior to the date on or before which nomination papers are to be filed. The candidate from each of the five (5) districts must be a resident of such district for a period of at least three (3) months prior to the date on or before which the nomination papers are to be filed.

Beginning with the regular municipal election in November, 2011, the at large position then up for election shall be designated as the mayor's position and shall continue as the mayor's position thereafter. The position of mayor only shall be elected by majority vote as provided in section 3 of this article. The candidate(s) for mayor shall be nominated in the same manner as other at large members of the council. The term of mayor shall be four (4) years, with a maximum limit of two (2) consecutive terms. The election and position of mayor shall be a non-partisan, full-time position. (Referenda 12/1/75; 6/13/78; 11/4/86; 11/3/87; 11/2/10)

EXPLANATION

The creation of an elected Mayor position starting in 2011 with a four year term alters the City's historic election pattern so that in some years no at-large councilors will be up for election. This amendment will create a system in which one at-large position is up for election every year. It does that by making a one-time extension in the term of one of the two at-large seats which are up for election in 2013 to a four year term, ending in 2017. In 2017 and thereafter the term for the at-large position will be three years.

Separately designated nomination papers will be issued for each of the at-large seats in 2013. Candidates may only take out and file nomination papers for one of the two seats. There will be separate questions on the 2013 ballot, one for the 4 year seat and one for the 3 year seat.

