

Proposed Amendment to the Charter

The right of all persons of legal voting age under Maine state law who are residents of Portland to vote in municipal elections and on municipal initiatives is established, regardless of citizenship status. Such voters shall hereinafter be referred to as “municipal voters”.

City officials must enact implementing ordinances to create procedures to carry out this section, including but not limited to ordinances ensuring that :

- Voter registration forms allow municipal voter registration without no questions about immigration or citizenship status;
- Municipal voters are identified as such on the City’s voter registration rolls:
- Procedures are established to safeguard against municipal voters mistakenly being given state and federal ballots when a municipal election coincides with the date of a state or federal election;
- All municipal voters are provided with an official certification that the City allows residents to vote in municipal elections regardless of immigration or citizenship status;
- Mechanisms are in place, including but not limited to having an advisory committee comprised of both city staff, elected officials, community organizations and residents meaningfully review at established intervals whether the City needs to revise the municipal voter procedures;
- Widespread public education efforts are conducted in multiple languages to advise Portland residents about the availability of municipal voter registration;
- Portland residents have access to all information necessary, available in at least all of the home languages, updated annually, of families whose children attend Portland Public Schools, to enable them to make a knowing and intelligent choice when deciding whether or not to register as municipal voters. That information must include, at a minimum, that:
 - Municipal voters will be able to vote in municipal elections only, and not in state or federal elections;

- There are severe immigration consequences, including denial of permanent residency or naturalization to U.S. citizenship, deportation and future inadmissibility, of voting in state and federal elections should a municipal voter mistakenly be given state or federal elections ballots;
- That the City provides all municipal voters with an official written certification of their registration as a municipal voter allowed to vote in municipal elections regardless of immigration or citizenship status, that can be provided to Immigration authorities;
- That before registering as a municipal voter, it is advisable to consult an immigration lawyer, including information about how to find immigration attorneys and immigration legal aid resources;
- That the City cannot guarantee that municipal voter registration rolls will not become public or be accessed by federal immigration officials, or other agencies or individuals.

The City shall also provide public education materials and create procedures to allow municipal voters, whenever applicable, to change their voter registration to reflect that they are U.S. citizens and entitled to vote in municipal and state and federal elections.