



PRESS RELEASE  
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**Fair Elections Portland asks City Council to Honor the Will of the Voters  
and Place the Clean Elections Charter Amendment on the Ballot**

[PORTLAND, ME] – Fair Elections Portland (FEP) is asking the City Council to end the controversy over local Clean Elections by placing the certified charter amendment before the voters.

The charter amendment was approved for ballot placement in August 2019 but has been tied up in litigation following the City’s decision not to place the measure on the ballot. A Supreme Court decision in June 2021 found that the City had no factual basis in the record for its decision not to follow state law on charter amendments. The Court also found that it saw nothing on the face of the charter amendment proposal that would require a charter commission.

“If the City Council continues down this path, it will make the power of the citizens weaker than we ever imagined, and the power of unelected administrators will be far stronger,” said Anna Kellar, President of Fair Elections Portland. “We ask the Council to seize this opportunity and honor the will of 6,816 voters who supported Clean Elections with their signatures by putting this measure back on track.”

The City Council is under a court order to conduct a fact-finding process to show whether the measure alters the “form and structure” of City government. “The charter amendment is just 100 words long, and only relates to how candidates pay for their campaigns,” said FEP attorney John Brautigam. “It does not change the City Council-Mayor-Manager form of government in any way whatsoever.” Brautigam added, “The Court has given the City one last chance to get it right. Over 80% of Portland voters want this to be approved. It should be an easy vote for the City Council.”

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*Fair Elections Portland is a campaign of the League of Women Voters of Maine and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. For more about the campaign please email [info@fairelections.org](mailto:info@fairelections.org)*

“The City Council has an opportunity here to increase public confidence that the government is listening to the people,” said Anna Kellar, President of Fair Elections Portland. “We ask the Council to seize this opportunity and honor the will of 6,816 voters who supported Clean Elections with their signatures by putting this measure back on track.”