

Council Communication

May 17, 2016, Business Meeting

Resolution Referring to the Voters of Ashland the question of Urging the Oregon Legislature to Refer to Voters a Measure Creating a Publicly Funded Health Care System in Oregon

FROM:

Dave Kanner, city administrator, dave.kanner@ashland.or.us

SUMMARY

Councilor Voisin has requested a resolution to place on the November 2016 ballot a measure to urge the 2017 Oregon Legislature to refer to a state-wide ballot a measure creating a publicly funded health care system in Oregon.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Councilor Voisin was contacted by the citizen organization, Health Care for All Oregonians, requesting a resolution be placed on the November 2016 ballot by the Ashland City Council to request that the Oregon Legislature refer to a future ballot a measure creating a publicly funded health care system in Oregon. Per AMC 2.04.030, "Any Councilor may place any item on the Council's business meeting agenda provided that preparing the matter for Council consideration does not require more than two hours of staff time, including policy research and document drafting. The addition proposed by a Councilor for the agenda of a particular upcoming business meeting must be delivered to the City Administrator no later than noon of the Wednesday prior to that Council meeting. The City Administrator shall determine the order of business of the item. The Mayor may defer the item until a later meeting if the agenda of a particular meeting is already lengthy or if, in the Mayor's sole judgment, the matter is not time-sensitive, but in no case shall the Mayor defer the item to an agenda that is more than three months beyond the date requested by the Councilor submitting the item. Council members will endeavor to have subjects and any materials they wish considered submitted prior to finalization of the Council packet."

COUNCIL GOALS SUPPORTED:

1. Leverage our regional and state relationships to increase effectiveness in relevant policy arenas

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:

N/A

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move approval of the resolution titled, "A resolution of the City of Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon,



to submit to Ashland electors at the November 8, 2016 General Election an advisory question on instructing the 2017 Oregon Legislature to create a transparent public process to design a system that provides timely access to affordable comprehensive health care for all Oregon residents, ensures choice of provider, has effective cost controls, equitable access, and a focus on preventative care”

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft resolution



RESOLUTION NO 2016 – _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, JACKSON COUNTY,
OREGON, TO SUBMIT TO ASHLAND ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER
8, 2016 GENERAL ELECTION AN ADVISORY QUESTION ON
INSTRUCTING THE 2017 OREGON LEGISLATURE TO CREATE A
TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PROCESS TO DESIGN A SYSTEM THAT
PROVIDES TIMELY ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OREGON RESIDENTS, ENSURES CHOICE
OF PROVIDER, HAS EFFECTIVE COST CONTROLS, EQUITABLE
ACCESS, AND A FOCUS ON PREVENTATIVE CARE**

RECITALS:

A. The City Council of the City of Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon (the "City") has the authority to submit to electors at duly scheduled elections advisory questions on matters of interest to the City regardless of whether they are beyond the scope of the City's power to enact legislation.

B. Ashland residents are directly affected by Oregon laws regarding the provision and financing of health care to Oregonians.

C. The Oregon Legislature in chapter 712, Oregon laws 2013, required the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a study in accordance with certain criteria set forth in the legislation, and then recommend the best option for financing health care in the state. The study was funded by HB2828 in the 2015 session and is to be completed in time for the 2017 session.

D. The City Council wishes to afford the voters of Ashland the opportunity to decide whether to encourage the 2017 Oregon Legislature to create a transparent public process that builds upon the recommendations of the study authorized in the 2013 and 2015 sessions in order to design a system that provides timely access to comprehensive health care for all Oregon residents. This healthcare system would ensure choice of provider; have effective cost controls, equitable access, and a focus on preventive care; meet the criteria described in chapter 712, Oregon laws 2013; and be affordable for families, businesses, and society.

THE CITY OF ASHLAND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. At the November 8, 2016 election, the advisory question in the ballot title in the attached Exhibit A shall be submitted to the electors of Ashland for their "yes" or "no" vote.

SECTION 2. The City Recorder shall cause to be delivered to the Elections Officer of Jackson County, Oregon, not later than 61 days prior to the November 8, 2016 election notice of the City's referral of the advisory ballot question and all that is required to ensure that the ballot title as shown in Exhibit A complies with County and State requirements for submittal to Ashland electors in the November 8, 2016 election.

SECTION 3. The City Recorder shall give notice of receipt of the ballot title and notice of electors' right to petition for review of the ballot title as provided in the laws of the State of Oregon and the charter and ordinances of the City of Ashland.

SECTION 4. The City Attorney is authorized to modify the text of the ballot title and explanatory statement shown in Exhibit A to comply with any rules, procedures or practices of the Elections Officer of Jackson County to implement the requirements of Oregon law.

This resolution is effective upon signing by the Mayor.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Barbara Christensen, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

John Stromberg, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:

David Lohman, City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"
**City of Ashland Ballot Measure
November 8, 2016 General Election:
Advisory Question on
Implementation of Oregon Health Care Study**

Caption:

Question on design of comprehensive health care system.
Total 8 words (10 words permitted per ORS 250.035)

Question:

Shall Ashland voters instruct the 2017 Oregon Legislature to design a comprehensive health care system for Oregon?
Total 17 words (20 words permitted per ORS 250.035 20)

Summary:

The Ashland City Council has placed this advisory question on the ballot to determine whether a majority of Ashland voters wish to encourage the 2017 Oregon Legislature to create a transparent public process that will build upon the recommendations of the study authorized in 2013 and 2015 sessions in order to design a system that provides timely access to comprehensive health care for all Oregon residents. This healthcare system would ensure choice of provider; have effective cost controls, equitable access, and a focus on preventive care; meet the criteria described in chapter 712, Oregon laws 2013; and be affordable for families, businesses, and society.

The outcome of the election on this advisory question will not be binding; it will, instead, serve to inform the Oregon Legislature of the views of a majority of Ashland voters on the implementation of the financing study authorized in the 2013 Legislative Session.
Total 148 words (175 words permitted per ORS 250.035)

Explanatory Statement:

The Oregon Legislature in 2013 directed the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a study and then recommend the best option for financing health care in the state. The study was funded by HB2828 in the 2015 session and is to be completed in time for the 2017 session.

A "yes" vote on the advisory question would encourage the 2017 Legislature to utilize the results of the study authorized in 2013 and 2015 to design a system that provides timely access to comprehensive health care for all Oregon residents, ensures choice of provider, and has effective cost controls, equitable access, and a focus on preventative care.

A "no" vote would instruct the 2017 legislature not to design a system that provides timely access to comprehensive health care for all Oregon residents, thereby retaining the current mixed employer/Affordable Care Act system which provides for health care coverage through health insurance policies paid for by employers, individuals and the government.
Total 157 words (500 words permitted per ORS 246.150, 251.305 & 251)