

- **FY 2022-23 Food and Beverage Tax uses per AMC 4.34 Food and Beverage Tax:**
 - Beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Council may, through the statutory budget process, appropriate taxes under this chapter as follows:
 - a. Not less than twenty-five percent (25%) for the
 - acquisition,
 - planning,
 - development,
 - repair and
 - rehabilitation of City parks.
 - b. Not less than an amount necessary to pay for debt service on any borrowing for street repair and rehabilitation per the City of Ashland Pavement Management Program.
 - c. Up to two percent (2%) for the collection and administration of the tax.
 - d. Except as provided in subsection D of this section, any remaining amounts shall be appropriated for purposes consistent with this chapter unless other purposes are approved by a Council-adopted ordinance enacted by a vote of the Ashland electorate.

- **Voter Ballot Recommendation – potential alternative ballot measure**

Caption: Proposed amendment to the City of Ashland’s Food and Beverage tax ordinance.

Question: Shall the City of Ashland’s Food and Beverage Tax ordinance be amended to authorize its use for police, fire and rescue, wildfire prevention, city parks, open space and trails, recreation and senior services, and emergency event housing purposes?

Summary: The current City of Ashland’s Food and Beverage Tax ordinance dedicates its revenues be used for land acquisition, planning, development, repair, and rehabilitation of city parks (not less than 25% of revenues) and for street repairs (up to 73% of revenues). The ordinance also authorizes tax collection and administrative expenses (2% of revenues).

This proposed ordinance amendment would authorize revenue uses for operations, maintenance and capital expenses for city parks, open space and trails, recreation, or senior program purposes (not less than 25%) and for public safety, wildfire prevention and emergency event housing purposes (up to 73% of revenues). The ordinance would continue the currently authorized tax collection and administrative expenses (2% of revenues).

This proposed ordinance would extend the Food and Beverage Tax from December 31, 2030, to December 31, 2040. The proposed amendment does not change the current Food and Beverage Tax rate of 5% and provides that the tax rate and use of revenue cannot change without voter approval.

- **Voter Ballot Recommendation**

Caption: Proposed amendment to the City Charter of the City of Ashland to require the City Manager oversee and supervise all city employees except those designated in the City Charter as appointed by the City Council or elected by public vote.

Question: Shall Article VIII-A of the City Charter establishing the City Manager’s responsibilities be amended to delegate authority to appoint, supervise, and remove all employees of the City of Ashland to the City Manager, except for City Council appointed positions like the City Attorney or elected officials like the Park Commission, City Judge and City Recorder?

Summary: The citizens of the City of Ashland adopted a charter amendment effective January 1, 2021, establishing the position of City Manager. The current City Charter language requires the City Manager to organize and administer city departments, prepare and administer the annual city budget, and administer city utilities and city property. The current City Manager language includes one exempted department from the City Manager’s oversight responsibilities; it assigns responsibility for managing the city’s Park and Recreation employees to the publicly elected Park and Recreation Commission. This proposed amendment to the City Charter would extend and clarify the role and responsibilities of the City Manager to include oversight and supervision of all City employees in all operational departments or divisions of the city organization.

This proposed amendment to the City Charter would replace the current language in Article VIII-A, Section 4. Subsection 4 with the following requirement of the City Manager:

“Appoint, supervise, and remove all non-elected city employees, except employees who report directly to the Mayor and City Council which shall be appointed, supervised, and removed by the Mayor and City Council and shall be termed appointive officers.”