

Office of the County Clerk
Elections Division
Proposed Measure 20-349
STAR Voting FAQ



What would happen if the Measure passes?

If Eugene voters pass proposed Measure 20-349, Lane County Elections would be required to tabulate candidates for City of Eugene positions using the STAR voting method starting in November 2026. Other districts would retain the current style of voting.

If passed, who would pay for the development of a STAR voting system and how much would it cost?

If Eugene voters pass proposed Measure 20-349, Lane County would be responsible for paying for the development and annual maintenance of a STAR voting system. According to Clear Ballot, the certified voting system Lane County Election uses, they have not scoped for or included STAR voting in its development at this time, therefore they cannot provide an estimate. Although Clear Ballot has not provided an estimate, other counties that have implemented Ranked Choice Voting (a similar alternative voting system) have paid up to \$140,000 in development fees, and their annual maintenance fees have increased by \$40,000 a year.

What would happen if the proposed Measure does not pass?

The proposed changes to the voting system would not take place, and the implementation and ongoing costs would not be incurred.

If passed, how long would it take for the voting system vendor to develop a tabulation system for STAR Voting?

According to Clear Ballot, the certified voting system Lane County Election uses, they cannot provide an estimate on how long it would take to develop because they have not scoped for or included STAR voting in development plans at this time.

If Eugene voters pass proposed Measure 20-349, according to the City of Eugene's charter, it would be used starting in the November 2026 election. Ballots for the November 2026 election must be created by September 4, 2026, which would leave 26 months for the development of a tabulation system for STAR voting.

If passed, Lane County Elections would be working with Clear Ballot to create a new tabulation system for STAR voting, it may also be working to create and implement a system for Ranked Choice Voting (which will be placed before Oregon voters in November). Creating, testing and implementing two new voting systems in 26 months would be challenging and not possible with the current level of staffing and funding at Lane County Elections. See the section below for more information about the question of Ranked Choice Voting.

How would a STAR voting election be conducted if passed by Eugene voters?

Since there has been no development on the STAR voting method by Lane County Election's certified voting system vendor, it is impossible to begin creating a plan. Based on how other jurisdictions are conducting Ranked Choice Voting, voters in the City of Eugene would likely receive two ballots in the same ballot packet. One ballot would contain the City of Eugene candidates that would be selected using STAR voting, and the other ballot would contain all of the other races and measures that would be considered by voters using the standard voting method.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK / ELECTIONS DIVISION

275 W 10th Ave / Eugene OR 97401-3008 / (541) 682-4234 / Fax (541) 682-2303 elections@lanecountyor.gov
/ lanecounty.org/elections

9 a.m.-Noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday / 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day

What would the fiscal affect of proposed Measure 20-349 be on Lane County if passed?

If Eugene voters pass proposed Measure 20-349, Lane County Elections would be required by ORS 254.046 to absorb the cost for all Primary and General elections, which includes the instances when STAR voting would be used if the measure passes.

Below is a list of possible ongoing expenses:

- Printing additional ballots (\$.35 each x *120k voters) \$42,000
- Additional instructions (\$.10 x *120k voters) \$12,000
- Additional staff to process returned ballots and provide customer service \$10,000
- Additional annual maintenance for voting system hardware/software could be \$30,000 -\$40,000

Possible one-time expense:

- Voter education campaign \$200,000

*3/29/2024- 118,786 active registered voters in the City of Eugene.

What would happen if voters pass Ranked Choice Voting statewide in November 2024?

Oregon voters will have the opportunity to consider enacting Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for federal and some state offices this coming November. The matter is being placed before Oregon voters as a result of House Bill 2004. If passed by voters, any local government could opt-in and elect its candidates using Ranked Choice Voting, as well those federal and statewide offices included in the bill.

If both STAR voting in Eugene and RCV statewide are passed by voters, voting in 2028 *could* look like:

Inside the City of Eugene- The ballot packet would include 3 separate ballots:

- One to vote for City of Eugene candidates using STAR voting
- One to vote for federal, some state, and jurisdictions who opted in using RCV
- One for non-RCV jurisdictions

Voters outside of the City of Eugene would receive a ballot packet with 2 separate ballots:

- One to vote for federal, some state, and jurisdictions who opted in using RCV
- One for non-RCV jurisdictions

Voters would vote all of their ballots and return them in one return envelope.

During the deconstruction process (the act of opening and separating ballots from envelopes), election workers would separate RCV, STAR, and standard ballots to be tabulated using a method that was created for the specific voting method. There would be 3 separate sets of election results.

Since voters who receive multiple ballots do not always return each one, the deconstruction and reconciliation process would require additional staff and time. As a result, election results would likely be delayed.

This information was reviewed by the Oregon Elections Division for compliance with ORS 260.432

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