

Amendment Proposed to the LOC Constitution

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Board of Directors is committed to ensuring we remain a trusted partner for leaders at all levels. As your 2024 LOC President, I support amending the LOC Constitution to hold board members to a high ethical standard. Each board member occupies a statewide leadership position and should act accordingly.

The LOC Board recently adopted a Code of Ethics to ensure integrity, fairness, and respect for public trust. This code includes sanctions for violations, up to and including the removal from the board after a due process hearing. I would hope we never need this process. However, the current LOC Constitution does not address this, necessitating the request we are making to amend this section of the constitution.

The proposed amendment aims to allow removal of an LOC board member who violates the Code of Ethics, adding to the

reasons to fill a board member vacancy. This change will help maintain the highest ethical standards within the board, ensuring it continues to serve as a trusted governing body.

I urge each member city to review and vote in support of the proposed amendment at the LOC Annual Business Meeting on October 19. For questions, please contact LOC's General Counsel Jayme Pierce at jpierce@orcities.org or 971-428-7270.



Dave Drotzmann
LOC President; Mayor,
Hermiston

Constitutional Amendment FAQ

1. Why is a Constitutional amendment being proposed?

During the June 21, 2024 meeting of the LOC Board of Directors, the Board adopted a Board Member Code of Ethics to govern the conduct of all members of the Board, similar to codes of conduct found in council rules of procedure. Because the Board wants the code to be meaningful and enforceable, it prefers the code include a sanction which will allow for the removal of a Board member who is found to have violated said code. The LOC Constitution is the document which governs the removal of a person from the Board, and currently, the Constitution does not allow for removal from the Board based on a code violation. In order for the Board's desired sanction to occur, the Constitution must be amended.

2. How is the Constitution amended?

The LOC Constitution may only be amended at an annual business meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose and by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting delegates present.

3. What is contained in the newly adopted Code of Ethics?

The code expects all members of the Boards to conduct themselves in the following manner:

- Affirm the dignity and worth of local government services and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public leader.
- Be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all public and personal relationships in order that the member may merit the respect and confidence of the elected officials, of other officials and employees, and of the public.
- Serve the best interests of all community members.

- Recognize that elected representatives are accountable to their community for the decisions they make.
- Manage all LOC matters with fairness and impartiality.
- Recognize that public office is a public trust and a member shall not leverage their position for personal gain or benefit.
- Remain dedicated to ideals of honor and integrity. Insist on performance which will merit the respect and confidence of peers and public.
- Emphasize friendly and courteous service to the LOC membership and seek to improve the quality and image of public leadership.
- Handle each issue without discrimination on the basis of principle and justice.

4. Where can I view a copy of the proposed amendment?

A copy of the Constitution with the proposed amendment may be accessed at tinyurl.com/bdfpw4x9. The specific proposed amendment is contained in Article IV, Section 6.

5. When will voting occur?

Voting to amend the Constitution is scheduled to occur at the LOC Annual Business meeting on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will take place in conjunction with the LOC Annual Conference held at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend, Oregon.

6. Who should I contact with questions?

Questions may be directed to Jayme Pierce, LOC General Counsel, at jpierce@orcities.org or at 971-428-7270.