

BALLOT QUESTION # 1—Preamble and Land Acknowledgement

Shall the Municipality Approve the Charter Modifications Recommended by the Charter Commission to Amend the Preamble and Include a Land Acknowledgement as Summarized Below?

1. Proposed Summary:

This modification revises the existing Preamble of the Charter, restates the purpose of the city’s government and of its system of public education, and adds a land acknowledgment to address and respect Portland’s past.

2. Charter Language

Note: This contains only the provisions related to the Commission proposal in **Question # 1** and only those sections which will be changed if this question is adopted. Deletions are shown by ~~strikeouts~~; new language is underlined.

1. Amend the Table of Contents as follows:

Preamble and Land Acknowledgement

2. Amend PREAMBLE by deleting the current language in its entirety and replacing it, as follows:

PREAMBLE

~~We, the People of Portland, Maine, establish this Charter to secure the benefits of local governance and to provide for the general health, safety and welfare of our community. In so doing, we build a government that meets the needs of the people it serves and whose character it reflects. Our government shall further cooperation, encourage leadership, solicit our input and support the active participation of our residents in their governance. Our government shall be effective and accountable and shall promote equal rights and representative democracy. Our government shall provide public education that enables all residents to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to participate fully in Portland’s civic, intellectual, cultural and economic life, in order to enrich and strengthen our community and our common future.~~

(Referendum 11/2/10)

We, the people of Portland, Maine, establish this Charter to secure the benefits of local governance and to provide for the health, safety, and common good of all people in our community. In so doing, we seek to build a representative, responsive, and effective government that encourages leadership and participation from all members of that community, with an emphasis on accountability, equity, and inclusion, and a system of public education that supports Portland’s civic, intellectual, cultural, and economic life.

Land Acknowledgement

Portland is located in the unceded territory of the Aucocisco Band of the Wabanaki, which also includes the Abenaki, Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot people. European colonizers displaced Wabanaki people by force and went on to displace and harm indigenous peoples throughout what is now Maine and the United States. We acknowledge that displacement and that harm with sorrow, even as we celebrate and honor the Wabanaki knowledge and culture that continue to thrive in the Tribal Nations that have and always will call this place, the Dawnland, their home.