



CITY OF BEND

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Charter Review Advisory Committee
From: Elizabeth Oshel, Associate City Attorney
Re: Council Pay
Date: August 10, 2017

What are the parameters within which Council pay may be adjusted?

If the Charter is amended to allow councilmember pay to be set by ordinance, the Charter should provide that the current pay would apply to the end of any sitting member's term. If the charter is amended to be silent on pay, current council would serve without pay, because council cannot pass an ordinance setting its own pay.

The Charter could be amended to allow councilmember pay to be set by ordinance. Conflict of interest rules dictate that council may not vote to set the pay of current councilmembers. ORS 244.120. However, council can set the pay of the councilmembers who will be elected at the next election, including the mayor's pay. A potential conflict of interest exists for current councilmembers who are eligible to run for another term, or who may run for mayor. Councilmembers would have to disclose that possibility or intention to run for a position whose pay was being established.