



CITY OF PORTLAND  
Jon P. Jennings, City Manger

**To:** Mayor Snyder and City Council  
**From:** Jon P. Jennings, City Manager  
**Date:** December 4, 2020  
**RE:** Referenda Interpretation and Implementation Plan

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Since voter passage of five referenda on the November 2020 ballot, City staff and Corporation Counsel have been working diligently to interpret and implement the new ordinances.

Our implementation plan follows the letter of the ordinances and prepares City staff to administer new mandates, processes, and programs on December 6, 2020, when the ordinances go into effect.

The following information 1) summarizes the applicability of each referendum and 2) provides FAQs to answer questions we anticipate members of the public will raise. This information will be posted on the City website December 4, 2020, and will be accessible from the site's homepage.

It is worth noting that the following administrative action items are underway and expect to be completed as soon as possible:

1. Due to the volume of new data the City is required to collect from landlords annually, rental registration for 2021 will be delayed until the City launches an online platform to better collect, process, and evaluate all data related to rentals. We are currently in development of this platform, and anticipate that it will be available to landlords beginning in early 2021.

Although collection of rental registration data will be delayed, new fees established in the Rent Control Ordinance will be effective immediately.

Given the delay in landlords' ability to register this year, the City will waive late payment penalties for registrations submitted after February 1, 2021, but before April 1, 2021. Registrations submitted after April 1, 2021 will remain subject to late fees.

While collection of rental registration data will be delayed, new fees established in the Rent Control Ordinance will be effective immediately.

2. Public notices soliciting applications for the Rent Board will be issued by the City Clerk the week of December 7, 2020 and remain active until December 28, 2020. Applicants will be considered and selected by the Council's Nominating Committee, and then referred to the full Council for approval. Given that time frame, we expect the Rent Board to be established by February 2021. Starting December 6, 2020, the City's Housing Safety Office will receive and investigate complaints that fall within their jurisdiction.

We anticipate that there may be additional questions related to the City's interpretation and implementation of the five referenda, and will provide additional clarification and update the information available on the City website whenever possible. In many cases, however, members of the public will need to consult an attorney for legal advice or clarification as to how these referenda will impact them.