

## PRESS RELEASE

### Eugene Neighborhood Leaders Submit Application for Ballot Initiative to Adopt Alternative HB 2001 Code Amendments

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Responding to over 1,000 Eugene residents who have signed a petition to the Eugene City Council, leaders of three City-chartered neighborhood organizations have submitted a proposed ordinance they seek to place on a future ballot.

The City Council petition is posted at [Housing-Facts.org/petition](https://Housing-Facts.org/petition). The first petition element urges City Council to “amend the residential zones’ lot and development standards only to the degree that is necessary to conform to the State requirements” for House Bill 2001. The petition also urges protections for renters and the climate, notification of all residents and property owners who would be impacted, and a full housing needs analysis prior to any further zoning code amendments.

If passed, the proposed ordinance would implement the petition’s first recommendation by fully meeting statutory requirements but not adopting the extreme deregulation of Eugene zoning standards that has been proposed by the City Planning Division staff and recommended by the Eugene Planning Commission.

The neighborhood leaders who submitted the proposed ordinance include:

- Ted M. Coopman, Chair, **Jefferson Westside Neighbors**
- Pam Wooddell, Board Member and former Co-Chair, **Friendly Area Neighbors**
- Carolyn Jacobs, Board Member and former Co-Chair, **South University Neighborhood Association**

Ted Coopman explains: “There has been a complete lack of robust citizen involvement by City staff, and many Eugene residents are unaware of how radical the staff’s proposed code changes would be if adopted. Placing this alternative on the ballot would ensure that *every* Eugene voter, whether a renter or homeowner, has a say in the future of Eugene’s neighborhoods.”

The three neighborhood leaders are part of a broader group of neighborhood advocates who have presented substantial evidence to the City Council that the staff’s proposal lacks renter protections and slashes zoning regulations without requiring that investors provide any affordable housing. Currently, testimony that has been submitted to the City Council regarding the staff’s proposal is running approximately eight-to-one *against* that proposal. The staff proposal would allow future density in many of Eugene’s neighborhoods to be increased by as much as *five times*. Off-street parking requirements would be eliminated across much of Eugene, even where there is inadequate public transportation as an alternative to car ownership.

Other concerns raised by housing and climate advocates include the lack of tree and solar access protections, as well as a proposed expansion of intensive development and parking into the **Willamette River Greenway**.

To be placed on a future ballot, organizers need to collect signatures from about 9,700 Eugene registered voters. Coopman is optimistic about meeting that requirement: “We collected over 1,000 signatures for the petition to City Council since January, just by word of mouth. We now have a large group of motivated volunteers to collect signatures, as well as committed funding for paid signature gatherers, if necessary.”

The proposed ordinance and details on HB 2001 code amendments are available at **[Housing-Facts.org](https://Housing-Facts.org)**.

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