



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A New Kind of Democracy is Coming to Eugene.

EUGENE, OREGON - The City of Eugene has set in motion a new kind of randomized, online democratic process intended to represent resident voices more broadly and more accurately than ever before. The issue for up deliberation is housing changes set forth in HB 2001, which the Oregon Legislature passed last year. Implementation will have a profound impact on current city zoning regulations and invitations for residents to participate in a first-of-its-kind Review Panel have been sent to 7500 potential candidates this week. .

The unprecedented effort is a partnership between the [City of Eugene](#) and [Healthy Democracy](#), a Portland-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that designs and coordinates innovative, deliberative democracy programs.

"Deliberative democracy is really just a fancy term for bringing more people into the democratic process in ways that deepen public decision making," says Linn Davis, Program Manager and principle, process designer for Healthy Democracy. "We use a lottery-based recruitment system," Davis continues, "which broadly expands the spectrum of people who participate."

For the City's part, they are excited to get started. "This has been in the works for a while," says Terri Harding Harding, Principal Planner for the City of Eugene. "We're thrilled to be working with Healthy Democracy because of their track record bringing new voices to the table. The city is deeply committed to representing all of Eugene in this process."

Once selected, the Review Panel will craft formal guidelines for the implementation of HB 2001 this Fall, and then follow up in the Spring to refine their recommendations. Residents should be on the lookout for the envelope in their mailboxes this week. The deadline for response by mail is October 23rd, and online responses must be completed October 29th.

“The Review Panels are really inspiring to watch,” declares Davis. “It’s very encouraging to watch everyday people with a stake in their community come together to determine their own fate. What could be more democratic than that?”

For more information visit www.HealthyDemocracy.org/Eugene or www.eugene-or.gov/middlehousing

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