



**President**

John E. Zielinski  
*E.Z. Orhards*

**Chief Executive Officer**

Michael T. McLaran

**Executive Committee**

- Jane Berg  
*Benefits Consulting Northwest*
- Brent DeHart  
*DeHart's Mission Street Shell*  
*Salem Aviation Fueling*
- Terri Frohnmayer  
*First Commercial Real Estate Services*
- Tom Hoffert  
*Don Pancho Authentic Mexican Foods*
- Mark Shipman  
*Saafeld Griggs PC*
- Chuck Swank  
*Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C.*

**Board of Directors**

- Ryan Albritton  
*U.S. Bank*
- Patricia Callihan-Bowman  
*Express Employment Professionals*
- Norman Gruber  
*Salem Health*
- Barbara Hacke Resch  
*Smith Barney*
- Byron Hendricks  
*Prudential Real Estate Professionals*
- Steve Johnson  
*VIPS Industries, Grand Hotel in Salem*
- LeAnn Keim  
*West Coast Bank*
- Jim Lewis  
*Salem Association of Realtors*
- Kevin Mannix  
*Kevin L. Mannix, P.C.*
- John Miller  
*Courthouse Athletic Clubs*
- Bert Ortiz  
*Tico's Coffee Roasting Company*
- James Rasmussen  
*Modern Building Systems, Inc.*
- Bill Wilkson  
*Statesman Journal*
- Dick Withnell  
*Withnell Motor Company*

Salem Area Chamber of Commerce  
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Salem, Oregon 97301  
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[salemchamber.org](http://salemchamber.org)

Salem Area Chamber of Commerce  
Official Position – Marion County Measure 24-292 (Home Rule Charter)

**Salem Chamber Opposes Home Rule Charter on May Ballot**

The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce represents a wide cross section of private sector businesses. The Board of Directors includes small, medium, and large businesses that are committed to the Salem area community and the people of Marion County. The Chamber Board voted unanimously to oppose Measure 24-292 and here's why:

- The proposed charter will add two commissioners to the Marion County Board of Commissioners. Despite proponent claims, additional commissioners will require an increase in salary, benefits, equipment, and overhead after the first year.
- Additional staff members and advisors will be necessary. For example, the Lane County Commissioner's office, a five-member board, has 21.3 full time equivalent (FTE) employees with an annual budget in excess of \$3.1 million\*, while Marion County Commissioner's office has only 14 FTE and a budget of \$1.9 million. Similarly, the Clackamas County Commissioner's office has a budget of \$3.2 million\*. Thus, the proposed charter could result in an increased cost to taxpayers of more than \$1 million dollars in general revenue a year.
- Currently, Marion County residents have access to any of the three Commissioners providing greater representation for their interests rather than one representative from a specific geographic area.
- Too much power is given to the Marion County Clerk to draw district lines in favor of special interest groups.
- Voters must approve all changes to the charter at a cost of between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per election.
- Several provisions in the proposed charter either violate the Oregon Constitution outright or are so poorly drafted that their meaning is unclear. Passage of the proposed charter will certainly lead to needless and costly litigation.

Marion County is well governed and adequately represents the residents within the county. The last thing we need is to make government bigger and add costs to taxpayers.

Vote **NO** on Measure 24-292

\*Source: Marion County Budget

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