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## City Club Approves Ballot Measure 14

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)

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## City Club Approves Ballot Measure 14

**City Club's Research Board and Board of Governors have adopted the following resolution in favor of Ballot Measure 14 to be on the November ballot. This resolution is based on Club positions taken on earlier related research studies.**

**(As adopted by the Board of Governors on August 12, 2002.)**

### *Ballot Measure Resolution*

Ballot Measure 14: Amends Oregon Constitution: Removes historical racial references in obsolete sections of Oregon Constitution, Article VII (Original), Article XVIII

Recognizing that the diversity of Oregon's population provides strength and vitality to Oregon's economy and culture, and that this diversity ensures the just governance of all Oregonians, and that the Oregon Constitution should reflect the value of all individuals, the following resolution is adopted:

RESOLVED that the City Club of Portland supports Ballot Measure 14 and urges citizens to approve this legislative referral to remove racist references from the Oregon Constitution, for the following reasons:

The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution bans states from enacting or enforcing laws that deny citizens equal protection or due process of law based on race.

Language relating to race remains in the Oregon Constitution although Oregon voters in 1925 repealed the Oregon constitutional provisions relating to the exclusion of African-Americans.

This ballot measure offers the opportunity to rid the Oregon Constitution of demeaning and racist language and provides an important lesson in civics and humanity.

Passage of this ballot measure by a vote of the people would not create a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

Both the Oregon Senate and House of Representatives have proposed this constitutional amendment and have sent this legislative referral to the citizens of Oregon.

The City Club of Portland in 1991 studied racial and ethnic relations and advocated for the elimination of culturally insensitive language in City Club reports;