



### The Code Amendment Process

- 1.) The process for amending the text of the zoning code begins with the County Board of Commissioners directing the Planning Official to prepare a background report discussing the justification for the proposed text amendment.
- 2.) *Planning Commission Review – First Public Hearing*  
A public hearing is held before the Planning Commission. This is the first chance for public testimony to be considered. Written public testimony is given to the Planning Commission prior to the public hearing, and an opportunity for verbal testimony is provided during the public hearing.
- 3.) Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission shall make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to approve, deny, or modify the proposed text amendment.
- 4.) *Board of Commissioners Review – Second Public Hearing*  
A second public hearing with opportunity for public comment and then makes a decision to accept, reject, or modify the proposed text amendment in whole or in part.

### Public Notice

Public Notice for a legislative hearing is required to be published in the local newspaper. Additionally, if the proposed amendments further restrict the use of property, state law requires notice to be sent to each affected property owner [ORS 215.503]. This is commonly known as “Ballot Measure 56” notice, and gets sent out to property owners whose name and address is shown on the last available complete tax assessment roll.

The current zoning code amendments pertaining to commercial growing of marijuana in the Rural Residential Zone do not require Ballot Measure 56 notice since commercial growing is already prohibited in the Rural Residential Zone. As a courtesy to property owners, the Community Development Department has decided to notify each property owner to help encourage public engagement throughout the process.

## **Public Testimony**

Public testimony is an important part of this process since the code amendments are not put on the ballot of a general election. Therefore, the only way to get your voice heard is through written testimony submitted prior to planning commission or board of commissioners meetings or speaking during the public comment period of the public hearings. Whether you are for or against the proposed changes, your voice might not be heard if you don't speak up!

## **Additional Public Engagement**

In order to encourage public engagement throughout the process the Community Development Department is holding two additional meetings prior to the public hearings. The Code Amendment Workshop on November 2nd is designed to help craft rules and regulations that will make up public policy. After staff reviews feedback and new information gathered from the workshop, a second meeting will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> to share the results and the next steps moving forward.