

SCR 18 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 02/24/25

Action: Do adopt.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bonham, Golden, Jama, Manning Jr, Thatcher

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure honors the career of John McArdle for his leadership and service to the City of Independence and the State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The increased safety in downtown Independence and economic development at the riverfront, during Mayor McArdle's tenure
- Activities to enjoy in Independence, due to Mayor McArdle's efforts
- Mayor McArdle's nickname
- The population growth of Independence during Mayor McArdle's tenure
- Mayor McArdle's attitude of positivity and partnership

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

John McArdle served as mayor of the City of Independence, Oregon, for more than 25 years. He provided visionary leadership that shaped Independence's growth and enhanced the quality of life of its residents. Under his leadership, Independence experienced transformative growth and progress, including the creation of the beloved Riverview Park. During his tenure, Independence became one of the smallest towns in the United States to win an All-America City Award.

Mayor McArdle also supported initiatives that brought additional jobs to the area, fostering economic vitality and opportunity for residents. He played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Monmouth Independence Network (MINET), which is a groundbreaking municipal Internet provider that has positioned Independence as a leader in technological accessibility and connectivity. His collaboration and dedication to the vision of a free trolley system between the cities of Independence and Monmouth further enhanced regional connectivity and accessibility for residents and visitors alike.

Mayor McArdle actively contributed to state and regional leadership, serving on organizations such as the League of Oregon Cities, the Oregon Mayors Association, the Oregon Homeland Security Council, the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments board, the Ash Creek Water Control District board, and many others, advancing the interests of Independence and of the region as a whole. As a senior fellow at the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University, Mayor McArdle trained and mentored elected officials across Oregon, sharing his expertise and leadership skills through frequent presentations and workshops. In 2024, Mayor McArdle received the prestigious Mark O. Hatfield Statesmanship Award from the League of Oregon Cities, which honors exemplary service and lifetime achievements having a statewide impact.

SCR 18 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Mayor McArdle retired from office in December 2024, and will continue to serve his community, giving generously of his time and lending his vast experience and wisdom to numerous local organizations, while also serving as an elected board member of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee. Throughout his tenure as mayor, John McArdle exemplified collaboration, innovation, and a deep love for Independence, championing countless initiatives that have left a profound and lasting impact on his community and will be remembered for generations to come.