

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Calling an Election to Consider     )  
the Columbia County Law Enforcement Local     )     ORDER NO. 4-2023  
Option Tax     )

WHEREAS, while the Columbia County Sheriff’s Department has received additional funding in recent years for specialized services such as from the Oregon State Marine Board for Marine Patrol, traffic safety grants, and policing contracts with the City of Clatskanie and Portland General Electric, only eight road deputies are on staff to respond to emergencies, burglaries, citizens’ complaints and distress calls; and

WHEREAS, because there are so few road deputies, response time to all but the most serious calls is delayed and it is impossible to provide meaningful coverage to the entire County, jeopardizing the safety of the deputies and citizens of Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, not having enough road deputies results in an excessive amount of overtime pay, compensatory time off, overruns in unused vacation time, difficulty in providing follow-up on cases, and is likely to lead eventually to poor morale and turnover; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners refer to the voters the question of approving a local option tax at the rate of approximately \$0.29/\$1000.00 of assessed value for four years; and

WHEREAS, the proposed local option tax would raise approximately \$1,868,330 in 2023-2024, \$1,953,443 in 2024-2025, \$2,042,434 in 2025-2026 and \$2,135,478 in 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total outlay for such purpose over the four-year period would be approximately \$7,999,685; and

WHEREAS, the purposes for which the funds to be provided by the proposed local option tax are to be expended are to hire an estimated seven new patrol deputies and provide uniforms and duty belts, vehicles and equipment, training, to pay miscellaneous costs for new hires and for other law enforcement purposes as necessary; and

WHEREAS, the period of time authorized by the electors pursuant to ORS 280.060(3) would be four years;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. An election shall be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, to consider the Columbia County Law Enforcement Local Option Tax. The Columbia County Clerk is hereby directed to place the question of the proposed local option tax before the electors of Columbia County on the May 16, 2023, election ballot.

2. The purposes for which the funds to be provided by the proposed local option tax are to be expended are to hire an estimated seven new patrol deputies and provide uniforms and duty belts, vehicles and equipment, training, to pay miscellaneous costs for new hires and for other law enforcement purposes as necessary.

3. The estimated total revenues will be \$1,868,330 in 2023-2024, \$1,953,443 in 2024-2025, \$2,042,434 in 2025-2026 and \$2,135,478 in 2026-2027 for an estimated total outlay for such purposes of \$7,999,685.

4. The period of time for the local option tax will be four years.

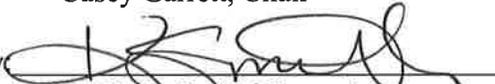
5. The proposed taxes are outside the limitation imposed by Section 11(3), Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

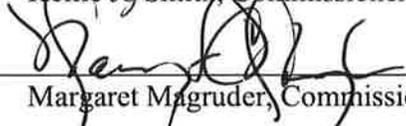
6. The Board of County Commissioners adopts and approves the Notice of County Measure Election and ballot title which is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit "A", and is incorporated herein by this reference.

DATED this 11 day of February 2023.

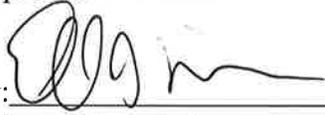
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Casey Garrett, Chair

By:   
Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner

By:   
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By:   
Office of County Counsel

## Notice of Measure Election

BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE **SEL 801**rev 01/18: ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.175, 254.103, 254.465

County

**Notice****Date of Notice**

2.22.23

**Name of County or Counties**

Columbia County

**Date of Election**

May 16, 2023

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Four-year Local Option Levy Dedicated to Law Enforcement

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall Columbia County levy \$0.29/\$1000 assessed value for four years beginning in 2023 for enhanced law enforcement? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office has never had a voter-approved operating fund completely dedicated to law enforcement. Instead, the Sheriff's budget is subject to the budget demands and pressures of the County's general fund, which must balance funding for all County services. The Sheriff's Office is under increasing calls for service that have increased with the decriminalization of drugs such as heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine. The increase in property crimes and violent crimes severely impact the citizens of Columbia County.

This measure would create an Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund to be used exclusively for increasing law enforcement presence throughout Columbia County and increasing Sheriff's Office presence within the cities. This fund would add 7 additional deputies and all necessary equipment, which would provide 24/7 law enforcement coverage in Columbia County and would reduce response times.

The approximate rate for this operating fund is \$0.29 per \$1000 of assessed value. The estimated money raised will be \$1,868,330 in 2023, \$1,953,443 in 2024, \$2,042,434 in 2025, and \$2,135,478 in 2026 for an estimated total levy of \$7,999,685.

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the county governing body; **or**  
→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

**Explanatory Statement Attached?**  Yes

**No**

**Authorized County Official** Not required to be notarized.

**Name**

Casey Garrett

**Title**

Chair, Columbia County Board of Commissioners

**Mailing Address**

230 Strand St. Helens, Oregon 97051

**Contact Phone**

503-397-4322

*By signing this document:*

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the county to submit this Notice of Measure Election; **and**  
→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature

Date Signed