

# Measure 5-302

Assigned 8/20/2024

November 5, 2024 General Election

## Notice of Measure Election County

SEL 801

JRS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.175, 254.103, 254.465

FILED - COLUMBIA CO. EL  
20 AUG 2024 10:00

### Notice

<b>Date of Notice</b> August 14, 2024	<b>Name of County or Counties</b> Columbia	<b>Date of Election</b> November 5, 2024
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**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.

4-Year Jail Operating Tax Levy

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

Shall Columbia County levy a tax of \$0.79/\$1000.00 of assessed value for four years beginning in FY2025 for Jail operations? 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.

In 2014, 2017, and 2020, voters approved a jail operating levy, expiring in 2024.

The Jail's primary funding sources are the County's General Fund, Federal bed rentals, and the Jail Operating Tax Levy. Since 2020, the County's General Fund support for the Jail has increased. However, operating expenses have increased by \$1,500,000 due to medical costs. To cover these rising costs, the Jail has been using reserve funds since 2020 which are no longer available. A 50% increase in General Fund support is not sustainable. Operation of the Jail at current levels is now dependent upon Federal bed rentals which are not guaranteed.

Without a new levy rate of \$0.79 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the Jail will not be able to operate at current capacity leading to staff reductions, fewer jail beds, and a shift to a "book and release" model. A complete Jail closure is possible.

The proposed tax levy will fund continued operations through FY2027-2028, including constitutionally mandated healthcare for adults-in-custody, food services, clothing, and Jail management.

The estimated money raised will be \$5,057,189 in FY2024-2025; \$5,270,715 in FY2025-2026; \$5,493,256 in FY2026-2027 and \$5,725,194 in FY2027-2028, for a total estimated tax levy of \$21,546,354.

**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.

<b>Name</b> Casey Garrett	<b>Title</b> Chair
<b>Mailing Address</b> 230 Strand, Room 20, St. Helens, Oregon 97051	<b>Contact Phone</b> 503-397-3839

*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

8.14.2024

Date Signed