

NOTICE OF MEASURE ELECTION AND RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 2/19/2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a ballot title for a measure referred by Columbia County has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk on February 19, 2025. The measure election will be conducted by mail and will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

The ballot title caption is: Renewal of Tax Levy for Jail Operations- Four Years

Caption

Renewal of Tax Levy for Jail Operations- Four Years

Question

Shall Columbia County renew a tax of \$0.5797/\$1000.00 of assessed value for four years beginning in FY2026 for Jail operations? This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary

In 2014, 2017 and 2020, voters approved a four-year tax levy for Jail operations that expires in FY2024-2025.

The three primary funding sources for the Jail are the County's General Fund, Federal bed rentals, and the existing Jail operating levy. Since the levy initially passed in 2014, County General Fund support for the Jail has remained consistent. Federal bed rental revenue has also remained stable but is not a guaranteed revenue source. The County Jail cannot continue at current capacity without renewal of the levy and an increase in U.S Marshals bed rentals.

Prior to the 2014 levy, the County was required to reduce Jail beds for local adults-in-custody to 25, and anticipated a full closure of the Jail without the levy. The operating levy is one of three funding streams that supports local beds, and funding for the constitutionally required food, clothing, management and health care for adults-in-custody. Without these three funding streams, the Jail may have to close. Renewal of the levy will help support continued operation of the Jail through FY2028-2029.

The estimated money raised will be \$3,752,486 in FY 2026, \$3,906,755 in FY 2027, \$4,067,366 in FY 2028, and \$4,234,580 in FY 2029, for an estimated total levy of \$15,961,187.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any elector may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County Circuit Court no later than the seventh business day after the title was filed with the county clerk.

The challenger must notify the Columbia County Clerk's Office in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the day the petition for review is filed (ORS 250.195. This notice is published pursuant to ORS 250.175(5) by Debbie Klug, Columbia County Clerk.