

FILED - COLUMBIA CO., OR  
12 MAR 2025 4:00

# Measure 5-304

## Notice of Measure County

Assigned 3/12/2025  
May 20, 2025 Special District Election

**SEL 801**

rev 01/16: ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.175, 254.103, 254.465

### Notice

**Date of Notice**

March 12, 2025

**Name of County or Counties**

Columbia County

**Date of Election**

May 20, 2025

**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.

Renewal of Tax Levy for Jail Operations - Four Years

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

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

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.

**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**

Kellie Jo Smith

**Title**

Chair

**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

March 12, 2025

Date Signed