

Coos County Filing Cover Sheet

02/23/2024 3:22:36 PM

TO: Coos County Clerk's Office



FROM: Human Resources

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BoPTA	R=6Y		Registry of Offices
Contracts & Agreements	R=P		Special District Budget
County Budget	R=P		Special District <small>Formations, Annexations, Dissolutions, Election Results</small>
County Code	R=P		Vacation Proceedings
Minutes - BOC	R=P		

R=Retention P=Permanent Y=Year AE=After Expiration

INDEXING INFORMATION

Affected Parties Names:

Board of Commissioners

Subject of Document :

Brief description, minutes, contracts, orders, etc.

Order 24-02-011 L Local Option Tax Levy / Public Safety Levy Ballot Measure

Resolution or Order #:

Example: 18-2-156-X

Document Remarks:

Order 24-02-011L In the Matter of Referring a Measure for a Local Option Tax Levy to Fund the Coos County Jail and the Office of the District Attorney to Coos County Votes at the May 21, 2024 Election

Date of Meeting or of Document:

"Date Only"

February 20, 2024

Clerk use - Filed: Scanned: Indexed: Verified:

NO CGSF R/D

1 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

2 COUNTY OF COOS

3 STATE OF OREGON

4 IN THE MATTER OF REFERRING A MEASURE) ORDER 24-02-011L
5 FOR A LOCAL OPTION TAX LEVY TO FUND)
6 THE COOS COUNTY JAIL AND THE OFFICE OF)
7 THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO COOS COUNTY)
VOTERS AT THE MAY 21, 2024, ELECTION)

8 NOW BEFORE the Coos County Board of Commissioners (“Board”) sitting for the
9 transaction of County business on the 20th day of February, 2024, is the matter of adopting a
10 ballot title and explanatory statement for a proposed five-year local option levy dedicated to
11 funding the Coos County Jail and District Attorney’s Office, and referring the matter to the
12 people of Coos County at the May 21, 2024, election;

13 AND IT APPEARING to the Board that the ballot title attached hereto as Exhibit A and
14 incorporated herein by this reference accurately sets forth the purpose for which the funds to be
15 provided by the levy are to be expended, the estimated total outlay for the purpose specified, and
16 the period of time to be authorized by the electors;

17 AND IT APPEARING to the Board that the explanatory statement attached hereto as
18 Exhibit B and incorporated herein by this reference complies with all applicable laws and
19 represents a clear and impartial description of the proposed measure;

20 AND IT APPEARING to the Board that the proposed ballot measure conforms to the
21 legal requirements for a local option levy and ballot title;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 23 1. The measure in the ballot title, attached as Exhibit A, shall be referred to the electors
24 of Coos County for their “yes” or “no” vote in the May 21, 2024, election.
25 2. The ballot title and explanatory statement, attached hereto as Exhibits A and B are
26 approved for submission to the Coos County Elections Officer, the County Clerk, for
27
28

1 the May 21, 2024, election.

2 3. Coos County Counsel is authorized to certify form SEL 805, SEL 801, and any other
3 form required by law to place this measure on the May 21, 2024, election ballot and
4 ensure publication of the explanatory statement in the State of Oregon Voters'
5 Pamphlet.

6 4. Coos County Counsel shall deliver to the County Clerk this order and all forms
7 necessary to ensure the explanatory statement's publication in the State of Oregon's
8 Voters' Pamphlet and the placement of the local option tax measure on the May 21,
9 2024, election ballot.

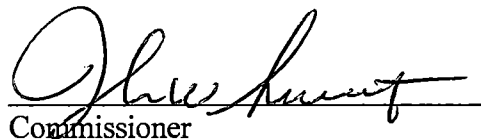
10 5. The County Clerk shall give notice of the receipt of the ballot title, and notice of
11 electors' right to petition for review of the ballot title, as provided by law.

12 6. Pursuant to and in compliance with Coos County Code Section 08.05.080, the County
13 Clerk shall accept arguments from any person or group of persons in support of, or
14 in opposition to, this tax measure.

15 Dated this 20th day of February, 2024.

17 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

18 
19 _____
20 Chair

21 
22 _____
23 Commissioner

24 Approved as to form:

25 Colton Tottland
26 Office of Legal Counsel

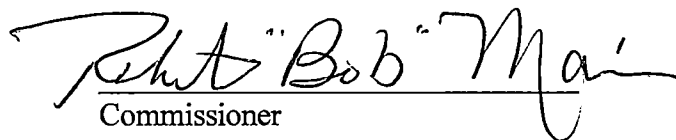
27 
28 _____
Commissioner

EXHIBIT A
BALLOT TITLE

Caption:

Five-year local option levy to fund public safety operations.

Question:

Shall Coos County fund public safety with a five-year operating levy of \$0.98/\$1,000 of assessed property value, beginning FY 2024-25? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary:

This measure will raise revenue to increase the capacity in the Coos County Jail to 147 Adults in Custody, an additional 49 beds over its current 98-bed capacity. This measure will also fund prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office to increase the number of criminal cases the Office can prosecute within the county.

These funds will be restricted for use by the Coos County Jail and the prosecution division of the Coos County District Attorney's Office. The proceeds generated from this measure will be placed in a restricted special revenue fund specifically earmarked for jail and prosecution services. To ensure accountability, an external auditor will annually audit the fund and report to the Sheriff and Coos County Board of Commissioners in a public forum.

Passage of this measure would establish a five-year tax rate of \$0.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025. After five years, this rate automatically expires unless re-approved by Coos County voters.

Estimated revenues for each year of the levy:

2024-25: \$5,733,463.93
2025-26: \$5,905,467.85
2026-27: \$6,082,631.89
2027-28: \$6,265,110.84
2028-29: \$6,453,064.17.

EXHIBIT B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This measure will increase the capacity of the Coos County Jail by 50 percent and enable the District Attorney's Office to prosecute more crime through the hiring of additional prosecutors.

The currently funded capacity of the jail allows the Sheriff's Office to hold 98 Adults in Custody. The money raised through this measure will make it possible to open another housing unit, increasing available bed space from 98 to 147. This increase will greatly reduce the need for releases due to overcrowding.

This measure will also fund prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office. Currently, the District Attorney is forced to determine what crimes he and his team have the capacity to prosecute. More prosecutors will enable the Office to handle backlogged cases and other cases that are currently turned away due to staffing limitations.

A larger number of prosecuted cases will likewise increase the ability of Coos County to enroll offenders in treatment and rehabilitation services through Community Corrections. The State of Oregon funds Coos County Community Corrections based on the number of parole and probation clients they have; any increase in the number of sentenced offenders will result in additional state funding for Coos County.

Coos County is proposing a local option levy of \$0.98 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$196.00 per year to support this levy, or \$0.54 per day. A property assessed at \$300,000 would pay \$294.00 per year, or \$0.81 per day. The new levy would begin July 1, 2024, and automatically expire on June 30, 2029, unless re-approved by Coos County voters.

A separate, dedicated fund will be created to hold funds collected through this levy and will be used to pay for jail operations and prosecutorial services through the DA's Office. Those services are currently paid for through the General Fund. By using levy funds, the previously used General Fund money will be available to offset an estimated FY 24-25 shortfall of \$4,000,000.