

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposed local option tax measure requires Coos County to fund at least 150 local jail beds at the Coos County Jail. All funds from the new five-year levy imposed by the measure must be used for jail operations in support of jail beds, including recruiting and hiring personnel necessary to increase jail capacity. The new levy would begin July 1, 2023 and end on June 30, 2028 unless a subsequent ballot measure extending the levy is approved by Coos County voters.

This measure requires the County to place all funds raised by the levy in a separate, restricted fund to be used for no purpose other than to pay for jail operations. The measure requires an annual audit of this restricted fund by an independent auditor and it requires the auditor to present a report of all revenue and expenses to the Sheriff and Coos County Board of Commissioners at a public meeting.

This measure requires the Coos County Board of Commissioners to continue to appropriate discretionary general funds for Jail operations, which, together with levy revenue, will ensure funding for at least 150 local jail beds for adult offenders.

The Coos County Jail is utilized by law enforcement throughout Coos County, including every city, unincorporated community and rural area. A lack of sufficient beds in the jail results in situations where individuals accused or convicted of crimes are released back into the community due to jail overcrowding. The additional funding provided by this measure will improve the Sheriff's ability to hold those accused or convicted of crimes in the jail until their cases have been resolved or their time has been served.

The proposed levy would set a five-year, fixed rate of \$.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The current average assessed residential property value in Coos County is approximately \$231,370. A \$.45 levy on a similar property value would create a tax of \$8.68 per month. Two expiring taxes currently imposed by Coos County may offset the impact of this proposed levy. First, the County's Pipeline Bond, set at the fixed rate of \$.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value, expires before this levy would become effective. Second, the County's Tower Levy, set at the fixed rate of \$.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value, expires on June 30, 2025. Together, the expiring bond and levy currently impose \$.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

For more information, visit Coos County's web site at: www.co.coos.or.us/sheriff/page/levy