

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Calling an Election to)
Consider the Columbia County Law)
Enforcement Local Option Tax Levy)

ORDER NO. 65-2006

WHEREAS, as Columbia County has experienced population growth over the past decade, it has experienced an increase in crime and safety issues commensurate with the population growth; and

WHEREAS, while crime has increased, funds available to the Columbia County Sheriff to fight crime have stagnated, and the number of full-time patrol deputies assigned to the road has been reduced to just four; and

WHEREAS, in addition to increases in crime associated with population growth, the Sheriff and Board of County Commissioners have been alarmed by the exponential growth of methamphetamine-related crime; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County has been severely impacted by the effects of illegal possession, use and manufacture of methamphetamines; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has requested additional funding to fight the methamphetamine epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners refer to the voters the question of approving a local option tax levy at the rate of approximately \$0.39/\$1000.00 of assessed value for five years;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. An election shall be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, to consider the Columbia County Law Enforcement Local Option Tax Levy at the rate of \$0.3949/\$1000.00 of assessed value for five years. The Columbia County Clerk is hereby directed to place the question of the proposed local option tax levy before the electors of Columbia County on the November 7, 2006, election ballot.

2. The purpose for which the funds to be provided by the proposed local option tax levy are to be expended would be exclusively for enhanced law enforcement capability, especially for additional road deputies and sergeants; uniforms and equipment for the new personnel; and other law enforcement purposes as necessary, including medical and behavioral drug treatment for incarcerated offenders.

3. The estimated total amount of money to be raised for each year of the proposed local option tax would be approximately \$1,292,300 in 2007-2008, \$1,331,100 in 2008-2009, and \$1,371,100 in 2009-2010, \$1,412,200 in 2010-2011, and \$1,454,600 in

2011-2012, for an estimated total outlay for such purposes of \$6,861,300.

4. The period of time authorized by the electors pursuant to ORS 280.060(3) would be five years.

5. The proposed taxes are outside the limitation imposed by Section 11(3), Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

6. The Board of County Commissioners adopts and approves the Notice of County Measure Election and ballot title which is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein by this reference.

DATED this 16th day of August, 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Chair

By: _____

Commissioner

By: _____

Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: _____

Office of County Counsel

NOTICE OF COUNTY MEASURE ELECTION

COLUMBIA COUNTY

(Name of County)

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 7, 2006

(Date of Election)

A measure election will be held in Columbia County, Oregon.

(Name of County)

The following shall be the ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters on this date:

CAPTION (10 Words)

Five-Year Local Option Levy Dedicated to Law Enforcement

QUESTION (20 Words)

Shall Columbia County levy \$00.3949 per \$1000.00 assessed value for five years beginning 2007-2008 for enhanced law enforcement funds? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY (175 Words)

(This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout.)

The Columbia County Sheriff's Department has never had its own voter-approved operating fund completely dedicated to law enforcement. Instead, the Sheriff's budget is subject to the budget demands and pressures along with all other county services in the county General Fund. Those pressures have increased with the epidemic of illegal methamphetamines and related crime severely impacting Columbia County.

This measure would create an Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund. It would be used exclusively for increasing law enforcement throughout the county. This Fund would add 15 more deputies and other law enforcement personnel. That means the Sheriff would have deputies on-duty, on the roads 24 hours a day, everyday, which currently is not possible with only four full-time patrol deputies assigned to the road. The measure would also provide the necessary equipment for the new deputies to perform their jobs.

The approximate rate for this operating fund is 39¢ per \$1000 of assessed value, approximately \$39 to the owner of a \$100,000 home. (The estimated money raised will be \$1,292,300 in 2007-2008, \$1,331,100 in 2008-2009, and \$1,371,100 in 2009-2010, \$1,412,200 in 2010-2011 and \$1,454,600 in 2011-2012 for an estimated total levy of \$6,861,300.)

The following authorized county official hereby certifies the above ballot title is true and complete.

Signature of authorized county official (not required to be notarized)

Date signed

Rita Bernhard

Vice-Chair, Board of Commissioners

Printed name of authorized county official

Title