

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Calling an Election to)
Consider the Renewal of the Columbia County)
Jail Local Option Tax Levy for Four Years)

ORDER NO. 42-2016

WHEREAS, the old Columbia County Jail was built in 1969, and was designed to hold a maximum of 39 prisoners, but was frequently overcrowded, and as a result arrestees often had to be released into the community after booking and before arraignment, prisoners had to be released into the community before their sentences were served, and there was constant fear of litigation over the unsatisfactory conditions in the jail; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 1998, the electors of Columbia County approved a measure authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance the construction of a new County jail and related law enforcement facilities; and

WHEREAS, the new Columbia County Jail and Justice Facility was completed in January 2001, and is designed to house up to 255 prisoners; and

WHEREAS, the cost to operate the new jail and supervise a greater number of prisoners was unknown at the time the electors authorized its construction, but it was obvious that it would be much greater than operating and staffing the old jail; and

WHEREAS, even though it was known the cost of operating and staffing the jail would increase, the Sheriff and Board promised to run the new jail for at least a year without additional funding to determine the minimum amount of new funds which would be necessary; and

WHEREAS, in order to temporarily run the new, much larger facility and supervise about four times as many inmates without additional funds, the Sheriff and Board promised to try to raise as much money as possible through bed rentals to agencies such as the US Marshals Service, save money by shifting road deputies into the jail to assist the regular correctional deputies, and temporarily shift additional County General Fund money into the Sheriff's Office and Jail budgets; and

WHEREAS, the amount of revenue that can realistically be expected from bed rentals to other agencies has now been established; and

WHEREAS, the County General Fund can no longer fund the operation of the Jail in sufficient amounts to keep more than 25 local inmates in the Jail; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Columbia County voters approved a levy of \$.05797/\$1000.00 of assessed value for Jail operations which will expire in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund and bed rentals have supported operations for 15

years; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund has experienced a significant decrease in the last decade and can no longer fully support Jail operations without a levy; and

WHEREAS, General Fund support for the Jail has remained consistent since the 2014 levy; and

WHEREAS, Federal bed rentals have remained stable since the 2014 levy, but are not a guaranteed revenue source; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that renewal of the local option tax for four years is necessary to properly fund jail operations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed renewal would raise approximately \$2,635,299 in Fiscal Year 2018, \$2,708,501 in Fiscal Year 2019, \$2,783,737 in Fiscal Year 2020, and \$2,861,063 in Fiscal Year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total outlay over the four-year renewal period is approximately \$10,988,600; and

WHEREAS, the purposes for which the funds to be provided by the proposed local option tax are to be expended would be to retain 100 jail beds for the local jail population; provide sufficient staffing to manage jail population, including retaining one supervisory position and six corrections deputy positions; and provide constitutionally adequate food, clothing, and health care to inmates; and

WHEREAS, the period of time authorized by the electors pursuant to ORS 280.060(3) would be four years;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. An election shall be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, to consider the renewal of a Columbia County Jail Local Option Tax Levy at the rate of \$0.5797 /\$1000.00 of assessed value for four (4) years. The Columbia County Clerk is hereby directed to publish the ballot title and place the question of the proposed local option tax levy before the electors of Columbia County on the November 8, 2016, 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 operating the Columbia County Jail.
3. The approximate rate for this operating fund is .58¢ per \$1000 of assessed value, approximately \$58 to the owner of a \$100,000 home. (The estimated money raised will be \$2,635,299 in Fiscal Year 2018, \$2,708,501 in Fiscal Year 2019, \$2,783,737 in Fiscal Year 2020, and \$2,861,063 in Fiscal Year 2021, with an estimated total outlay over the four-year renewal period of \$10,988,600.

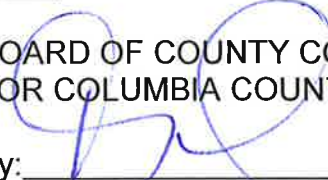
4. The period of time authorized by the electors pursuant to ORS 280.060(3) would be four (4) years.

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 ballot title which is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit "A", and is incorporated herein by this reference.

DATED this 27th day of July, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By: 
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By: 
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel

Request for Ballot Title

Preparation or Publication of Notice

SEL 805

rev 01/16
OAR 165-014-0005

No later than the **80th day before an election**, a governing body that has referred a measure must prepare and file with the local elections official the text of the referral for ballot title preparation or the ballot title for publication of notice of receipt of ballot title. This form may be used to file the text of the referral and request the elections official begin the ballot title drafting process or file a ballot title and request the elections official publish notice of receipt of ballot title.

Filing Information	
Election Date November 8, 2016	Authorized Official Anthony Hyde
Contact Phone 503-397-3839	Email Address sarah.hanson@co.columbia.or.us
Referral Information	
Title, Number or other Identifier Jail Operating Levy Renewal	
This Filing is For	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of Ballot Title Attach referral text. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication of Notice Ballot title below.	
Ballot Title Additional requirements may apply	
Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure. Renewal of Local Option Levy for Jail Operations- Four Years	
Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure. Shall Columbia County renew a levy of \$0.5797/\$1000.00 of assessed value for four years beginning in 2017-2018 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, voters approved a three year levy for Jail operations which will expire in 2017. 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 2014 levy passed, the 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 still cannot fully fund operation of the Jail without renewal of the levy. Prior to the 2014 levy, the County was required to reduce Jail beds for local inmates to 25, and anticipated a full closure of the Jail without the levy. The operating levy currently supports a total of 100 local beds, and funding for the constitutionally required food, clothing, management and health care for inmates. Renewal of the levy will pay for continued operation of the Jail through 2021. The estimated money raised will be \$2,635,299 in FY 2018, \$2,708,501 in FY 2019, \$2,783,737 in FY 2020, and \$2,861,063 in FY 2021, for an estimated total levy of \$10,988,600.	
<i>By signing this document:</i> → I hereby state that I am authorized by the county or city governing body to submit this Request for Ballot Title – Preparation or Publication of Notice.	

Signature

Date Signed

