

NOTICE OF COUNTY MEASURE ELECTION

ORS 250.035
ORS 250.041
ORS 250.175
ORS 254.103
ORS 254.465

COLUMBIA COUNTY
(Name of County)

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

(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)

4 -Year Local Option Levy Dedicated to Law Enforcement

QUESTION (20 Words)

Shall Columbia County levy \$00.6203 per \$1000.00 assessed value for four years beginning 2011-2012 for enhanced law enforcement funds? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

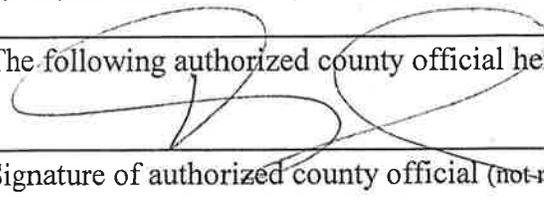
SUMMARY (175 Words)

The County Sheriff has never had an operating fund exclusively dedicated to law enforcement. The Sheriff's budget is dependant on the County General Fund and competes with other Departments. Consequently, the number of Patrol Deputies has shrunk, while demand for services is increasing, limiting the ability to investigate crimes, respond to emergencies, and assist city police.

This measure would create a fund exclusively for increasing public safety services county-wide. The fund would add approximately 9 Patrol Deputies and other enforcement personnel. With the passage of this Measure the Sheriff expects to have enough Patrol Deputies to respond to emergency situations 24 hours a day, every day, which currently is not possible. The Fund would also provide the necessary equipment for Patrol Deputies to perform their jobs.

The approximate rate for this operating fund is \$00.6203 per \$1000 of assessed value, approximately \$62 to the owner of a \$100,000 home. (The estimated money raised will be \$2,597,083 in 2011-2012, \$2,656,816 in 2012-2013, \$2,717,923 in 2013-2014, and \$2,780,435 in 2014-2015 for an estimated total levy of \$10,752,257.)

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)

11/3/11
Date signed

Anthony Hyde
Printed name of authorized county official

Chair, Board of Commissioners
Title

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Ballot Title Caption: 4-Year Local Option Tax Levy for Law Enforcement

Measure Number: _____ Word Total (500 Maximum): 495

Columbia County has been severely impacted by the ongoing loss of Patrol Deputies due to budget constraints. The Sheriff is requesting additional funds to fill the gaps in service that have been identified by Citizens that are caused by an underfunded Sheriff's Office. Future revenue/expenditure projections indicate that the pressure will increase for the Sheriff to find additional resources to provide the kind of public safety services Citizens rightly expect from their Sheriff's Office.

Citizens have said they want their Sheriff's Office to be staffed sufficiently to be able to patrol and deter criminal activity and respond to emergencies county-wide; to provide personnel who can identify suspects in crimes, bring them to justice and keep our County from being a criminal target; and to be available to back-up and assist City police agencies who, themselves are affected by shrinking public safety budgets.

The Sheriff's Office has never had its own operating fund completely dedicated to law enforcement. Instead, the Sheriff's budget is affected by the budget demands of all other County General Fund Departments. As demands have increased on the shrinking County General Fund the number of Patrol Deputies has been reduced, despite the increased demand for patrol deputy services. This budget situation creates gaps in the ability to investigate crimes, respond to emergencies, and assist city police. For example, there are entire days when there are no Patrol Deputies on duty. On most days there are usually only one or two Patrol Deputies on duty and available to investigate criminal activity, patrol the 657 square mile area of the County and provide backup and assistance to city police agencies County-wide.

This measure would create an Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund for the purpose of increasing public safety services County-wide. The measure would add approximately 9 Patrol Deputies and other enforcement personnel. The levy would also pay for the equipment and training the Patrol Deputies would need to be proficient in their jobs. As a result, the Sheriff expects to have enough Patrol Deputies to respond to emergency situations 24 hours a day, every day, which currently is not possible. City agencies would also have closer back-up and assistance available around the clock. Patrol Deputies would not just always be going from call-to-call, but would have more time to investigate crimes. Currently no County Detective positions are funded in the Sheriff's budget. This Measure would add one or more Detectives to follow up on the more serious and complex crimes, leaving Patrol Deputies on the road to respond to emergency calls that much faster. Currently, many reported crimes are only memorialized through police reports. The measure would allow the Sheriff's Office to investigate many more reported crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The approximate rate for this levy is 62¢ per \$1000 of assessed value, approximately \$62 to the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000 or \$124 per year to the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000, beginning in fiscal year 2011-2012.

Person responsible for the content of the Explanatory Statement:

Anthony Hyde, Chair, Board of Commissioners

(TYPED)

X _____
(SIGNED)

Name of the Governing Body person represents: **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

RES 023 (1/10/94)