

## NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 2/28/2024

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an amended ballot title for a measure to be referred by the Columbia County Board of Commissioners has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk on February 28, 2024. A measure election will be held within the boundaries of Columbia County on May 21, 2024. The election will be conducted by mail.

The ballot title caption is: Jail Operating Tax Levy

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### Caption

Jail Operating Tax Levy

### Question

Shall Columbia County levy a tax of \$0.87/\$1000.00 of assessed value for four years beginning in FY 2025 for Jail operations? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

### Summary

In 2014, 2017, and 2020 voters approved a jail operating levy, expiring in 2024.

The three primary funding sources for the Jail are the County's General Fund, Federal bed rentals, and the Jail Operating Tax Levy. Since 2014 the County's General Fund support for the Jail has remained consistent. However, during the pandemic Federal bed rental revenue substantially decreased and the cost to run the jail substantially increased. Jail medical costs alone increased from \$634,278 in FY19-20 to \$1,500,000 in FY24-25. The Jail has been forced to use reserve funds to cover costs since 2020. The Jail cannot fully operate without a new rate of \$.87/\$1000.

Prior to the 2014 Levy, the County was forced to reduce Jail beds for local inmates to 25 and anticipated a full closure of the Jail without the Levy. The tax Levy at a rate of \$.87/\$1000 will pay for continued operation of the Jail through FY2027-2028, including funding for constitutionally required food, clothing, management, and healthcare for adults in custody.

The estimated money raised will be \$5,569,309 in FY 2024-2025, \$5,804,458 in FY2025-2026, \$6,049,535 in FY2026-2027 and \$6,604,960 in FY2027-2028, for a total estimated tax Levy of \$23,728,262.

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Any elector of the proposed district may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County Circuit Court no later than 5:00 p.m. March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (which is the 7<sup>th</sup> business day after receipt). The challenger must notify the Columbia County Clerk's Office in writing not later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the day the petition for review is filed (ORS 250.195).

This notice is published pursuant to ORS 250.175(5) by Debbie Klug, Columbia County Clerk.

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