

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE AND MEASURE ELECTION

Filed in the Office of County Clerk 2/27/2026.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a ballot title for a measure referred by Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District has been filed with the Columbia County Clerk on February 27, 2026. The measure election will be conducted by mail and will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

The ballot title caption is: **Local Option levy for 9-1-1 emergency communications services**

CAPTION

Local Option levy for 9-1-1 emergency communications services

QUESTION

Shall Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District establish a five-year emergency communications services levy at \$0.29 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning FY2026-2027? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY

This measure proposes a five-year local option levy to fund Columbia 9-1-1 emergency communications countywide. Voters previously approved operating levies for these services in 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2018. The most recent levy expired in 2024. When first approved, the levy rate was higher and later reduced after five years, remaining at the lower rate for twenty years. This proposal establishes a levy at that same lower rate.

Columbia 9-1-1 is the sole activation point for critical incident response in Columbia County. Levy funds would supplement ongoing operations, including 9-1-1 call handling and dispatching for all cities and unincorporated areas. Funding would maintain the public safety radio system serving 16 fire, emergency medical and law enforcement agencies, and providing interoperability with Oregon State Police and Oregon Forestry Department.

The proposed rate is \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For a home with an assessed value of \$300,000, the annual cost would be approximately \$87. Estimated revenues are \$2,144,925 in 2026; \$2,240,255 in 2027; \$2,339,821 in 2028; \$2,443,813 in 2029; and \$2,552,427 in 2030. Total levy of \$10,914,819.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any elector may file a petition for review of this ballot title in the Columbia County Circuit Court no later than close of business March 10th (which is the 7th 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 255.155). This notice is published pursuant to ORS 255.145(5) by Debbie Klug, Columbia County Clerk.