

17-117

Notice of Measure Election County

SEL 801

rev 01/18: ORS 250.035, 250.041,
250.175, 254.103, 254.465

Notice

Date of Notice

2/29/2024

Name of County or Counties

Josephine County

Date of Election

May 21, 2024

Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Animal Shelter and Animal Control Five Year Local Option Tax

REC'D JOSEPHINE COUNTY
'24 FEB 29 AM 11:25:55

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall County levy \$0.47 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years for animal services and a capital project beginning 2024-2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

This levy replaces the current local option tax of \$0.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value that expires in June, 2027, with a new five year tax of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value that expires in June, 2029. Revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. Josephine County could use this revenue only to:

- Fund Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations;
- Fund a capital project to repair, renovate and expand the Animal Shelter facility;
- Pay related administrative expenses.

The Animal Shelter provides services for dogs, cats, and other impounded animals. Animal Control investigates animal abuse, neglect, hoarding, and abandonment, and refers such cases for prosecution. Animal Control also enforces laws that regulate dogs that attack livestock, and animals that are dangerous or a public nuisance.

During the course of this levy the Animal Shelter will be repaired, renovated and expanded. After the shelter project has been paid off, the levy rate would drop from \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The proposed maximum rate of \$0.47 per \$1,000 would raise approximately \$4,647,500 in fiscal year 2024-2025, \$4,787,000 in 2025-2026, \$4,930,500 in 2026-2027, \$5,078,500 in 2027-2028, and \$5,231,000 in 2028-2029, for a total of \$24,674,500.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the County Assessor at the time of the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

- any measure referred by the county governing body; **or**
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?

Yes

No

Authorized County Official Not required to be notarized.

Name

M. Wally Hicks

Title

Josephine County Legal Counsel

Mailing Address

500 NW 6th St . Dept 13, Grants Pass, OR, 97526

Contact Phone

541-474-5226

By signing this document:

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the county to submit this Notice of Measure Election; **and**
- I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Feb 29, 2024

Signature

Date Signed

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Ballot Title Caption Animal Shelter and Animal Control Five Year Local Option Tax

Measure No. _____

Word Total (500 max) 473

In November, 2021, voters passed a five-year local option tax of \$0.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations countywide. That measure will remain in effect until June, 2027, unless voters approve this measure to replace the existing tax with this tax of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This proposed five-year local option tax of up to \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would fund Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations through June, 2029. This levy would also fund a capital project to repair, renovate and expand the Animal Shelter facility. When the construction loan for the capital project has been paid off, the levy rate would drop to \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value until the levy expires in June, 2029.

The Animal Shelter is located near the Grants Pass Airport. In 2020, the Shelter served at least 2,000 animals. In 2023, the Shelter served at least 2,600 animals by reducing some of the services offered. The Shelter has a live release rate of over 90%, which meets national No-Kill standards. In addition to 7.3 full-time equivalent county employees, the Animal Shelter receives support from about 100 unpaid volunteers. The facility was last renovated in 1978. The Shelter is 5,850 square feet in size. The kennel capacity of 32 units has remained unchanged since 1978. If this levy passes, the Shelter size and capacity would expand to meet the increased demand. Other funding sources such as donations and grants could reduce the cost of the capital project.

Animal Control investigates animal abuse, neglect, hoarding, and abandonment. Animal Control also enforces laws that regulate dogs that attack livestock and animals that are dangerous to humans or are a public nuisance. Animal Control Officers respond to calls for service seven days per week. In 2020, Animal Control received approximately 1,750 calls for service. In 2023, Animal Control received approximately 3,400 calls for service. The county employes up to 4 Animal Control Officers. Funding from this levy would increase the number of Animal Control Officers to address the increased demand.

Revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. The fund could be used only for Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations, a capital project at the Animal Shelter, and related administrative expenses. In accordance with law, expenditures from this fund would be subject to annual independent audits.

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee receives regular reports regarding expenditure of levy funds and advises the Board of County Commissioners on animal-related issues. The advisory committee would continue its role under the new levy.

At \$0.47 per \$1,000, for every \$100,000 of assessed value, the tax would cost \$3.92 per month or \$47 per year. The approximate tax increase for a home valued at the County average residential assessed value of \$220,240 would be approximately \$103.51 per year.

Board of County Commissioners
Person responsible for the content of the Statement

Josephine County
Name of the Government Body person represents