

Coos County Safety Levy

May 2024 Ballot

We've got a problem with crime in Coos County and our accountability system is underfunded.

Public safety is the fabric of our society and our current system is broken. We need to increase the number of jail beds and we need more Deputy District Attorneys to hold criminals responsible for their actions.

The current operating capacity of the jail allows the sheriff's office to **only hold 98 adults in custody**. If we want to keep criminals in jail, we need to open more jail beds. **With your help, we can increase the jail bed space from 98 to 147 beds.**

Additionally, this levy will fund two new Deputy District Attorney positions. Currently, the District Attorney is forced to determine crimes he and his team have the capacity to prosecute. **Once hired, additional staff will allow for prosecution of backlogged cases, as well as timely prosecution of new cases.**

This tax is only for 5 years.

We want to prove this will work.

- 100% of the levy dollars will be dedicated to the jail and the District Attorney's office to prosecute criminals and put them in jail for their crimes.
- An external auditor will audit the levy dollars to make sure they are used in the way of voter's support.

Questions?

Commissioner John Sweet
jsweet@co.coos.or.us

Sheriff Gabe Fabrizio
gfabrizio@co.coos.or.us

Coos County is proposing a tax levy of \$0.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 will pay \$196.00 per year (\$16.33/month) to support this levy.

A property assessed at \$300,000 will pay \$294.00 per year (\$24.50/month).



EXHIBIT A
BALLOT TITLE

Caption:

Five-year local option levy to fund public safety operations.

Question:

Shall Coos County fund public safety with a five-year operating levy of \$0.98/\$1,000 of assessed property value, beginning FY 2024-25? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary:

This measure will raise revenue to increase the capacity in the Coos County Jail to 147 Adults in Custody, an additional 49 beds over its current 98-bed capacity. This measure will also fund prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office to increase the number of criminal cases the Office can prosecute within the county.

These funds will be restricted for use by the Coos County Jail and the prosecution division of the Coos County District Attorney's Office. The proceeds generated from this measure will be placed in a restricted special revenue fund specifically earmarked for jail and prosecution services. To ensure accountability, an external auditor will annually audit the fund and report to the Sheriff and Coos County Board of Commissioners in a public forum.

Passage of this measure would establish a five-year tax rate of \$0.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025. After five years, this rate automatically expires unless re-approved by Coos County voters.

Estimated revenues for each year of the levy:

2024-25: \$5,733,463.93

2025-26: \$5,905,467.85

2026-27: \$6,082,631.89

2027-28: \$6,265,110.84

2028-29: \$6,453,064.17.

EXHIBIT B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This measure will increase the capacity of the Coos County Jail by 50 percent and enable the District Attorney's Office to prosecute more crime through the hiring of additional prosecutors.

The currently funded capacity of the jail allows the Sheriff's Office to hold 98 Adults in Custody. The money raised through this measure will make it possible to open another housing unit, increasing available bed space from 98 to 147. This increase will greatly reduce the need for releases due to overcrowding.

This measure will also fund prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office. Currently, the District Attorney is forced to determine what crimes he and his team have the capacity to prosecute. More prosecutors will enable the Office to handle backlogged cases and other cases that are currently turned away due to staffing limitations.

A larger number of prosecuted cases will likewise increase the ability of Coos County to enroll offenders in treatment and rehabilitation services through Community Corrections. The State of Oregon funds Coos County Community Corrections based on the number of parole and probation clients they have; any increase in the number of sentenced offenders will result in additional state funding for Coos County.

Coos County is proposing a local option levy of \$0.98 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$196.00 per year to support this levy, or \$0.54 per day. A property assessed at \$300,000 would pay \$294.00 per year, or \$0.81 per day. The new levy would begin July 1, 2024, and automatically expire on June 30, 2029, unless re-approved by Coos County voters.

A separate, dedicated fund will be created to hold funds collected through this levy and will be used to pay for jail operations and prosecutorial services through the DA's Office. Those services are currently paid for through the General Fund. By using levy funds, the previously used General Fund money will be available to offset an estimated FY 24-25 shortfall of \$4,000,000.

Notice of Measure Election County.

6-213

MAR 4 2024 PM 1:55

SEL 801

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

Notice

Date of Notice
March 4, 2024

Name of County or Counties
Coos 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.

Five-year local option levy to fund public safety operations.

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

Shall Coos County fund public safety with a five-year operating levy of \$0.98/\$1,000 of assessed property value, beginning FY 2024-25? 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 measure will raise revenue to increase the capacity in the Coos County Jail to 147 Adults in Custody, an additional 49 beds over its current 98-bed capacity. This measure will also fund prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office to increase the number of criminal cases the Office can prosecute within the county.

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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
Colton Totland

Title
County Counsel

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250 N. Baxter Street

Contact Phone
(541) 396-7690

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.

Colton Totland

March 4, 2024

Signature

Date Signed