

# 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****Name of County or Counties****Date of Election**

**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.

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

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

**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****Title****Mailing Address****Contact Phone**

*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.

*Lisa Knight Davis*

**Signature****Date Signed**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Hood River County has depleted its financial reserves and can no longer maintain current levels of county services without additional revenue. After holding focus groups, public budget workshops and evaluating public survey results, the Board of Commissioners is asking voters to approve a Public Safety Levy of \$.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The revenue from this operating levy would be dedicated to public safety services.

The County's population has increased 23.6% since 2000, and public safety staffing levels have not kept pace. The Sheriff has experienced a 20% increase in incoming calls for service between 2011-2019. When the number of patrol deputies does not keep pace with population growth, call response times are slower, and the Sheriff cannot safely staff law enforcement patrol to provide 24/7 coverage countywide. Approval of this measure would retain 11 existing patrol positions and add additional public safety personnel to support 24/7 patrol coverage, including an operational support position and two additional patrol deputies.

Approval of this measure would also support current levels of criminal justice services, including child abuse and domestic violence investigations, transporting prisoners, courthouse security and criminal prosecution services in conjunction with the District Attorney.

Without approval of this measure, public safety positions will be eliminated, and the Sheriff will not have enough patrol deputies to provide 24/7 patrol coverage. Service reductions will be implemented countywide due to the budget shortfall.

The proposed levy is a five-year local option tax. It cannot be renewed without voter approval. At \$.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the tax would cost approximately \$13.24/month, or \$159.93/year based on the median assessed home value in Hood River County. The measure is estimated to generate: \$1,977,965 in 2020-21; \$2,037,304 in 2021-22; \$2,098,423 in 2022-23; \$2,161,376 in 2023-24; and \$2,226,217 in 2024-25.