

**Washington County  
Measure No. 34-296**

**Public Safety Levy Replacement  
Ballot Title**

**Caption:**

Replacement Local Option Levy for Countywide Public Safety Services

**Question:**

Shall Washington County support enhanced public safety services by levying 47¢ per \$1,000 assessed value for five years, beginning 2021? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

**Summary:**

Measure replaces levy expiring June 2021. Replacement maintains and adds to countywide public safety services.

**Maintained:**

- Investigation, forensics services and prosecution of homicide and other major crimes supporting public safety countywide;
- Trained mental health responders including deputies and mental health professionals helping people in crisis get medical assistance instead of going to jail;
- Juvenile programs reducing crime;
- Monitoring registered sex offenders and other supervision;
- Victims' assistance and emergency shelter, including for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

**Added:**

- Enhanced prosecution and supervision for domestic violence, child abuse and child pornography cases;
- More deputies to operate the jail at full capacity, minimizing early release of offenders;
- Enhanced diversion programs reducing juvenile crime;
- Services to quicken the transition from shelter to stable housing, including for domestic violence survivors.

Five-year, fixed rate of 47¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 5¢. If approved, this would be the first increase in the rate since original 2000 levy.

In 2021, typical homeowners with an assessed value (not market value) of \$300,000 would pay \$141.

**Estimated levy amount for each year:**

\$34,751,000 in 2021-2022  
\$36,228,000 in 2022-2023  
\$37,767,000 in 2023-2024  
\$39,373,000 in 2024-2025  
\$41,046,000 in 2025-2026

**Washington County  
Measure No. 34-296**

**Public Safety Levy Replacement**

**Explanatory Statement**

Washington County provides public safety services to every city, unincorporated neighborhood and rural area countywide.

Measure 34-296 would replace a five-year levy expiring in June 2021. The expiring levy funds 16% of the County's public safety system. A replacement levy would run from July 2021 to June 2026.

**What would replacement of this levy do?**

Measure 34-296 would both maintain and add to current levels of public safety services in all areas of Washington County.

**Maintained services would include:**

**Investigation, forensics and prosecution services addressing major crimes such as homicide and assault, among others.**

**Trained mental health responders including a mental health response team of deputies and mental health professionals helping people in crisis get medical assistance instead of going to jail.**

- Last year, nearly 40% of the team's 5,118 calls resulted in nontraditional law enforcement solutions such as helping individuals get immediate medical care or follow-up response to ensure a safe outcome to a crisis.

**Programs that focus on reducing juvenile crime.**

**Compliance monitoring for registered sex offenders and others requiring court-ordered supervision.**

**Victims' assistance and emergency shelter, including for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.**

- Levy funds would continue to support emergency shelter and other services provided by the Domestic Violence Resource Center, Community Action, Good Neighbor Center, Family Promise, Boys and Girls Aid Society Safe Place and the Family Justice Center of Washington County.

**Additional services would include:**

**Enhanced prosecution of child abuse and child pornography cases.**

**Increased investigation, prosecution and supervision of those charged with domestic violence.**

- In 2019, 985 domestic violence cases were filed, a 36% increase in caseload when compared to 2018.

**Operating the jail at full capacity to minimize the early release of offenders.**

**Enhanced juvenile diversion programs to help youth avoid more crime.**

- Additional levy dollars would help provide accountability by youth and restore justice to victims.

**Services to quicken the transition from emergency shelter to stable housing for individuals and families, including survivors of domestic violence.**

- Temporary shelters have seen a 70% increase in use over the last three years.
- Enhanced levy funding would provide rent assistance for domestic violence survivors and help people find jobs and safe permanent housing.

**How would this replacement levy affect a homeowner's taxes?**

The replacement levy would set a five-year, fixed rate of 47¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 5¢. If approved, this would be the first increase in the rate since the original levy in 2000. In 2021, typical homeowners with an assessed value (not market value) of \$300,000 would pay \$141.

**What happens if the replacement levy does not pass?**

The expiring levy funds 16% of the County public safety system. Although public safety would remain a priority, reductions affecting prosecution, law enforcement, supervision, corrections and emergency shelters would likely begin in 2021.

**More information?**

Visit the Washington County web site at [www.co.washington.or.us/levies](http://www.co.washington.or.us/levies)