

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
OREGON

# MEASURE 34-296 ON MAY 19 BALLOT



## Proposed Measure for Countywide **PUBLIC SAFETY** SERVICES

Washington County provides public safety services to all city and urban unincorporated neighborhoods and rural communities including prosecution, jail and other incarceration services, probation and parole supervision, juvenile crime prevention, special law enforcement teams and other law enforcement services, such as forensics and investigations.

The expiring levy has funded 16% of the public safety services just named.

### **IF PASSED, WHAT WOULD MEASURE 34-296 DO?**

If passed, the proposed levy would provide \$195.7 million in funding over five years under two categories:

#### **Current Service Level If Levy Passes**

- Prosecution services (25.3 District Attorney's Office positions)
- Treatment and supervision of those released to the community (31 Community Corrections positions)
- Supervision and treatment of juvenile offenders (11 Juvenile Department positions)
- Law enforcement personnel providing countywide services in investigations, forensics and special teams such as a mental health response team (101.25 Sheriff's Office positions)
- Victims' assistance and emergency shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. (Approximately \$7 million over five years).

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### ***Added Services If the Proposed Levy Passes***

- One prosecutor to help address rising child abuse and child pornography cases at a five-year cost of \$1.4 million. (1 District Attorney's Office position)
- Four parole and probation officers responsible for addressing the increased domestic violence-related caseloads at a five-year cost of \$2.4 million. (4 Community Corrections Department positions)
- Four jail deputies at a five-year cost of \$2.8 million, allowing the jail to operate at full capacity and reduce early release of offenders. (4 Sheriff's Office positions)
- Contracted services over five years with community-based organizations to divert juvenile offenders out of the criminal justice system as appropriate at a five-year cost of \$1.5 million.
- Funding to reduce the transition time from emergency shelter to housing. (\$1 million in rent assistance, 2 nonprofit positions)

### **IF PASSED, HOW WOULD THE PROPOSED LEVY AFFECT A HOMEOWNER'S TAXES?**

The proposed levy would have a five-year, fixed rate of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This would be an increase of \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value over the current levy. If approved, this would be the first increase in the rate in 19 years. In 2021, typical homeowners, with an avg. assessed value of \$300,000, would pay \$141 per year, or about \$20 more than they paid in 2020.

### **WHAT IF THE LEVY DOES NOT PASS?**

If the levy does not pass, the additional local option property taxes would not be levied. In 2021, typical homeowners, based on an avg. assessed value of \$300,000, would see a \$126 per year reduction in property taxes. If the levy does not pass, there would be a reduction in services in Washington County affecting prosecution, law enforcement, supervision, corrections and emergency shelters likely to begin in 2021.

### **MORE INFORMATION?**

Visit the County's Web site at:  
[www.co.washington.or.us/levies](http://www.co.washington.or.us/levies).

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