

VOTER PAMPHLET FOR NORTH PLAINS

MEASURE 34-102

FIVE YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX FOR NORTH PLAINS POLICE SERVICES

QUESTION: Shall North Plains levy \$.74 per \$1000 assessed value each year for five fiscal years (2005-09) for police services?

This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: In 2000, voters approved a four year levy for police services that pays for one police officer. The department consists of the Chief of Police and two police officers. The current levy expires June 30, 2005 and levies \$.56 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. The proposed levy is to replace this levy and is an additional \$.18 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.

If this measure is approved, the City will levy \$.74 per \$1000 of assessed valuation each year for five years beginning in tax year 2005-2006 for police services.

Passage of this measure will continue to pay for one police officer position, as well as for other police services and equipment. This levy will not pay for additional staffing. If the measure does not pass the City will have to layoff one police officer, leaving the Chief of Police and one police officer in the City.

This levy is estimated to raise \$82,437 each year. The estimated total raised for the five years is \$412,185.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT: This measure is a Five Year Local Option Tax for North Plains police services. If approved, the City will have \$82,437 more for police services each year for five years beginning fiscal year 2005-2006.

When the City permanent tax rate was set, it provided enough money to pay for all police services. Costs have grown faster than the ability of the City general fund to fully pay for police services. In 2000, voters approved a four year local option levy for the police services. That levy expires June 30, 2005.

The Police Department consists of a chief and two police officers. The expiring levy funds one of the two police officer positions. The new local option tax measure would continue to fund this position. It would also pay for police equipment including a police car. The new levy would not fund additional staff. If the measure passes, the police department will have adequate funding for five more years.

If the measure does not pass, the City will layoff one police officer. This will leave the police chief and one police officer. This will reduce police service for City residents from 120 hours to 80 hours a week.

Police service reduction would prevent the City from meeting its goals of providing professional and well managed police services to North Plains citizens. In the last year, the police department has made substantial progress to realize City goals. Officers have received increased training, and participate in county wide law enforcement functions. The department has provided more professional and knowledgeable police services that are responsive and beneficial to the citizens of North Plains.

Passage of the levy measure would assure the continuation of the positive growth in the police department. Failed of the measure would make the department assume a maintenance role and reduce police services offered to the public.

The total amount of the five year levy is \$412,185. The estimated tax rate for the levy is \$0.74 for each \$1,000 of assessed value. This is about \$96 per year for a home with an assessed property value of \$130,000.

The current four year levy ends June 30, 2005. Under this levy, residents pay about \$0.56 for each \$1,000 of assessed value. This is about \$73 per year for a home with an assessed property value of \$130,000.

The proposed five year levy is \$.18 more than taxpayers pay under the current levy. This is about \$23 more per year for a home with an assessed property value of \$130,000.

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 estimate.

Submitted by:
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