



## **Emergency Communications System Bond Measure 34-243 on the Ballot May 17, 2016**

When a person calls 911 for help, Washington County's emergency communications system is used to dispatch first responders to the scene as quickly as possible. The system is used by all law enforcement, fire and rescue and ambulance service providers countywide. The system has worked for decades, but now manufacturers no longer make key parts, the technology is outdated and the buildings and towers are not designed to withstand a major earthquake.

For these reasons, Washington County voters will be asked to consider a funding measure to replace and upgrade the emergency communications system. With voter approval this May 17, Washington County would issue general obligation bonds to pay for \$77 million in capital costs for emergency and 9-1-1 equipment and facilities, including:

- Converting the existing system to current technology
- Improving countywide coverage by installing more towers
- Strengthening facilities for earthquakes, storms and other emergencies
- Providing for efficient expansion of the 9-1-1 center and emergency response facilities
- Replacing approximately 3,000 analog radios currently used by first responders countywide.

The projected levy rate is not expected to exceed 8 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The actual rate may vary depending on changes in bond interest rates and assessed values. This rate would be levied over less than 21 years. A typical homeowner would pay about \$20 in 2016. This assumes an average assessed value (not market value) of \$255,408.

For more information, call 503-846-8685 or visit <http://wcemergencycommunications.blogspot.com>