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Election • November 2nd



Measure 34-179: Renewal of Local Option Levy for Countywide Public Safety

Washington County voters will consider a Public Safety Levy Renewal this November called Measure 34-179. If the measure were to pass, it would continue funding for public safety services countywide. A five-year local option levy is proposed to replace the expiring four-year levy that ends in June 2011. The renewed levy would continue a fixed tax rate of 42¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, which is unchanged from the current rate, and would run from July 2011 through June 2016.

Renewal of the Public Safety Levy would continue funding to maintain the current balance in the public safety system serving all areas of the county. These public safety services are provided to cities, urban unincorporated communities and rural areas. Specifically, the Public Safety Levy Renewal would provide funding for personnel and services to:

- Maintain supervision and compliance monitoring of registered sex offenders;
- Operate the jail and work release center at full capacity to minimize the early release of offenders;
- Investigate crimes and prosecute criminals, including the use of crime scene specialists and forensics experts;
- Serve all areas of the county with special enforcement teams (including the Major Crimes, SWAT, Fraud and Identity Theft, Gang and Narcotics teams), probation and parole officers, juvenile counselors and other public safety personnel;
- Support emergency shelters for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Proposed Rate, Term and Tax Impact

As mentioned earlier, Measure 34-179 would continue a fixed-rate of 42¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, which would be unchanged from the current rate. A five-year local option levy is proposed to replace the expiring four-year levy that ends in June 2011. A longer length is proposed for the levy to provide greater funding stability for public services and to decrease election-related expenses that occur when levies are put on the ballot.

Homeowners with an average assessed value of \$215,089 (different than market value) would pay \$90 in property taxes for this levy in 2011-12. The tax due in future years would depend on changes in assessed value.

More Information

More information about Measure 34-179, the Public Safety Levy Renewal, is available at the County's Web site at: www.co.washington.or.us/levies or call (503) 846-8685.

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