

**Washington County
Measure No. 34-179**

Public Safety Levy Renewal

Explanatory Statement

Washington County provides public safety services inside and outside cities to prevent and fight crimes such as homicide, domestic violence, and crimes affecting children. The County serves the Cities of Banks, Beaverton, Cornelius, Durham, Forest Grove, Gaston, Hillsboro, King City, North Plains, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin, parts of Portland and Wilsonville and the unincorporated neighborhoods and rural areas of Washington County.

Measure 34-179 would continue support 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. This measure would run from July 2011 through June 2016. The renewed levy would continue a fixed tax rate of 42¢ per \$1,000 assessed value, which is unchanged from the current rate.

What would renewal of this levy do?

Measure 34-179 would maintain the current balance in the public safety system serving all areas of the county by continuing funding for:

Supervision and compliance monitoring of registered sex offenders:

- Levy funds would be used to supervise offenders, including interventions to reduce the likelihood of new offenses.

Special enforcement teams serving all areas of county:

- These multi-agency teams include the Major Crimes, SWAT, Fraud and Identity Theft, Gangs and Narcotics teams.

Prosecution, probation and parole, juvenile crime and other services that prevent and fight crime:

- Levy funds would be used to investigate and prosecute crimes including burglaries, identity theft and vandalism in addition to violent crimes.
- The levy would support juvenile programs to reduce juvenile crime.

Operating the jail and work release center at capacity to minimize the early release of offenders:

- Levy funds would help keep 572 beds open in the County jail and 215 beds open in the work release center.

Emergency shelters for women and children who are victims of domestic violence:

- Levy funds would continue to support emergency shelters; shelters currently funded are operated by Community Action, the Domestic Violence Resource Center, Family Bridge Interfaith Network and the Good Neighbor Center.

Measure 34-179 would continue to fund approximately 132 full-time-equivalent positions throughout the criminal justice system. These personnel deliver the countywide public safety services described above.

How would this renewal affect a homeowner's taxes?

The levy would continue a fixed-rate of 42¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, unchanged from the current rate. A typical homeowner would pay about \$90 in 2011-2012, or an average of about \$7.50 per month. Assumes average assessed value (not market value) of \$215,089.

What happens if the levy renewal does not pass?

The expiring levy provides 16% of the County justice system workforce. Although public safety would remain a priority, reductions affecting prosecution, law enforcement, supervision, corrections and emergency shelters would be likely, beginning in 2011.