

**Washington County
Measure No. 34-243**

**Washington County Emergency Communications System
Bond Measure**

Caption:

General Obligation Bonds for County Emergency Communication and Response Facilities

Question:

Shall Washington County issue \$77 million in bonds to update 911 communications system, emergency response facilities and improve disaster response? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Summary:

The emergency communications system receives and dispatches 911 calls to all law enforcement, fire and rescue and ambulance service providers countywide and provides the radio system for responder communication. The system has worked for decades, but now manufacturers no longer make key parts, the technology is outdated and the buildings and towers are not designed to withstand predicted seismic activity.

With voter approval, bonds would pay the capital costs of facilities, infrastructure and equipment to:

- Convert existing 911 system to current technology;
- Improve countywide radio coverage by installing more towers;
- Strengthen facilities to withstand emergencies;
- Expand the 911 dispatch center and expand or add other County emergency response facilities; and
- Replace approximately 3,000 analog radios currently used by responders countywide.

Bonds would be paid over less than 21 years.

Projected levy rate is not expected to exceed 8¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value. Actual rate may vary depending on bond interest rates and assessed value changes. In 2016, typical homeowners with an average assessed value (not market value) of \$255,408 would pay about \$20.