



# Measure 34-243

Primary Election • May 17, 2016

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- 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 911 center and emergency response facilities
- Replacing approximately 3,000 analog radios currently used by first responders countywide.

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### Who uses the emergency communications system?

Every city police department, the County Sheriff's Office, all fire and rescue responders and all emergency medical and ambulance service providers countywide. The system is run by the Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency (WCCCA), also known as 911 dispatch.

### Why does the system need to be updated?

- **Changes in Emergency Communications Technology**

The system has worked for decades, but now manufacturers no longer make key parts because they have transitioned to newer technology, and finding quality used parts for the current system has become increasingly difficult.

- **A Growing Demand for Emergency Services**

Population and emergency call volume are anticipated to increase over time. Updated equipment and room for expanded facilities would enable the 911 dispatch center to remain effective.

- **A Need to Improve Reliability during Major Disasters**

The emergency communications system is designed, built and maintained to a higher standard than consumer telecommunications. The system must work reliably even when a storm, earthquake or other major emergency causes landline or cell phone networks to overload or fail.

### How much would this measure cost taxpayers?

The projected levy rate is not expected to exceed 8¢ 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.

### More information:

<http://wcemergencycommunications.blogspot.com>



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