

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: **23-02-07-01**

IN THE MATTER OF REFERRING TO THE  
VOTERS OF LANE COUNTY A RENEWAL  
OF THE FIVE-YEAR PUBLIC SAFETY  
LOCAL OPTION LEVY

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety Levy passed in May 2013 and was renewed in May 2017 to fund a minimum of 255 local beds at the Lane County Jail and additional detention and treatment beds at the Division of Youth Services;

**WHEREAS**, the Lane County Jail currently has 367 jail beds for local offenders, representing a capacity increase from May 2013 of nearly 300 percent;

**WHEREAS**, pre-trial capacity-based releases of violent felony and Measure 11 offenders from the Lane County Jail have ceased since the addition of levy funded local jail beds;

**WHEREAS**, the need for mental health services to in the Jail continues to increase, and approximately 78 percent of mental health services aimed at helping those in custody make positive improvements and build life skills in an effort to reduce recidivism in the Jail are funded by the levy;

**WHEREAS**, Youth Services has doubled the capacity of detention and residential treatment beds, and the expansion has allowed Youth Services to hold those who are the highest public safety risk and provide critical interventions including counseling and secure treatment through its residential Phoenix Treatment Program;

**WHEREAS**, annual external audits have shown that the levy revenues are being spent as specified by the ballot measure language;

**WHEREAS**, Lane County has seen a 81 percent reduction in federal revenue from public lands since 2001;

**WHEREAS**, there is no indication that Lane County's federal revenue from public lands will increase in the foreseeable future;

**WHEREAS**, Lane County Sheriff Cliff Harrold has requested the Board of County Commissioners place the question of levy renewal before voters in the May 16, 2023 election;

**WHEREAS**, Oregon tax policies limit temporary property tax increases from occurring without a vote of the local electorate; and

**WHEREAS**, per Lane Code 2.657, the "Board may place on the ballot any County measure or refer a measure of County legislation to be voted on according to procedures and deadlines specified by state law."

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The Administrator shall draft proposed ballot language for renewal of a five year local option public safety levy, consistent with the goals and objectives as outlined in the proposed language attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Administrator and County

Clerk may make any necessary changes to the proposed language for the purposes of placing the levy on the May 16, 2023 election ballot.

2. If this levy renewal passes, the Board of County Commissioners shall continue to appropriate Discretionary General Funds to fund jail services that, together with the continued levy revenue, will provide for the consistent operation of at least 255 local adult jail beds, 8 youth detention beds and 8 Youth Services treatment beds for critical youth services for the duration of the levy renewal period.
3. If this levy renewal passes, the Board of County Commissioners shall strive to act consistently with the Board's approved motion suggesting jail operations shall receive approximately 91 percent of levy revenue, and critical youth services shall receive approximately 9 percent. If there is a reduction in the rate levied in any year of the levy, every effort will be made to maintain the approximate ratio to ensure the delivery of the same level of jail and critical youth services.
4. All funds raised by the levy will be placed in a separate, restricted special revenue fund.
5. The Board shall receive annual independent financial audit reports of levy funds, which will include analysis of annual revenues collected and expenses incurred for the provision of the minimum 255 local jail beds and critical youth services for the duration of the levy.
6. The County Clerk is hereby authorized to publish notice and take all other action to call the measure election.

**ADOPTED** this 7th day of February, 2023.



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Pat Farr, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners