

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 17-02-14-14

**IN THE MATTER OF REFERRING A
RENEWAL OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY FIVE-
YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY TO THE
VOTERS OF LANE COUNTY TO MAINTAIN
JAIL BEDS AND CRITICAL YOUTH
SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Levy passed in May 2013 funded 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 317 jail beds for local offenders, representing a capacity increase from May 2013 of 250%.

WHEREAS, capacity based releases from the Lane County Jail have decreased over 63% (monthly average) since the addition of local jail beds.

WHEREAS, Youth Services has doubled the capacity of detention and residential treatment beds. The expansion of detention beds, in particular, has allowed Youth Services to hold those who are the highest public safety risk.

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 91% reduction in federal revenue from public lands since 2001.

WHEREAS, the federal forest replacement legislation known as the Secure Rural Schools Act expired in 2015 and Lane County received its final payment under the Act in Fiscal Year 2015/2016.

WHEREAS, there is no indication that the Secure Rural Schools Act will be reauthorized.

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

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

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."

WHEREAS, absent revenues from the Public Safety Levy, the services currently provided by the levy would be decreased or eliminated entirely.

WHEREAS, Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp has requested to put the renewal of the levy before the voters in the May 2017 election.

WHEREAS, Exhibit A, attached to Board Order 17-01-31-01 contained a scrivener's error in that the proposed ballot language failed to include the following language "for five years" in the ballot question

WHEREAS, the corrected proposed ballot language is attached as Exhibit A

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Lane County Board of County Commissioners direct the Administrator to forward the proposed ballot language for a renewal of the Public Safety five-year local option levy, attached hereto as Exhibit A, the contents of which are incorporated herein, to the County Clerk for review and placement on the May 2017 election for the purposes of continuing funding jail and youth services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if this renewal passes, the Board of County Commissioners shall continue to appropriate Discretionary General funds to fund jail services which, 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Board of County Commissioners shall strive to act consistently with the Board's approved motion suggesting jail operations shall receive approximately 91% of the revenues collected from the levy, and critical youth services shall receive approximately 9% of the revenues collected from the levy. 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Board shall continue to receive external audit reports 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 throughout the duration of the levy.



Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date

LANE COUNTY OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE – EXHIBIT A

Caption

Renewal of Jail and Critical Youth Services Five-year Levy.

Question -

Shall County maintain jail beds, critical youth treatment services levying \$0.55 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, for five years commencing 2018/19? This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary

Passage of this measure will allow Lane County to:

Maintain a minimum of 255 local jail beds for the five year period. Increased jail capacity has substantially improved the Sheriff's ability to hold those accused or convicted of violent crimes until their cases are resolved.

Continue to provide additional counseling, secure treatment and detention services for Lane County youth offenders. This ensures that more community youth offenders receive the treatment that they need.

The funds generated from this tax must be placed into a restricted special revenue fund specifically earmarked for the jail and youth services. An external auditor will annually present, in a public forum, an independent audit report to the Sheriff and the Lane County Board of County Commissioners to ensure accountability.

After five years, this tax rate automatically sunsets, unless reapproved by Lane County voters. This measure generates revenue for five years beginning in 2018, and for the median home in Lane County, valued at \$175,679 in 2016, the annual tax payment will be approximately \$96.62.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate. 2018-\$17,796,345; 2019-\$18,152,272; 2020-\$18,515,317; 2021-\$18,885,623; 2022-\$19,263,336.