

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION AGENDA

9:30am CBAB, 601 State Street, Hood River, OR - 1st Floor Conference Room

- Public Safety 5-year Local Option Tax Levy Ballot Title & Explanatory Statement Review

HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

DATE: February 10, 2020 **DEPARTMENT:** Administration **NAME:** Jeff Hecksel

SUBJECT: Public Safety Local Option Tax Levy - Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement Review

AUTHORITY: *ORS:* _____ *OAR:* _____

COUNTY ORD.: _____

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF SUBJECT:

The Commission determined a rate of \$0.78 for a Public Safety Local Option Levy at the Jan. 21, 2020 meeting. Staff and legal counsel have been working on the language for the explanatory statement that will go into the voters pamphlet for the May 19, 2020 election. February 3, 2020 the Commission met to review the Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement and asked for changes. Legal has redrafted both document and the drafts are attached for the Commission to review and make recommendations for changes to be made, if any, for final consideration at the public hearing on February 18, 2020.

ATTACHMENTS: Multiple 2

FISCAL IMPACT:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY AFFECTED PARTIES:

COUNTY COUNSEL *FINANCE* *OTHER AGENCIES* *ADMIN*
HR DEPT *APPROPRIATE COUNTY COMMITTEE* *OTHER*

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT:

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Review the documents and recommend changes, if any, to staff.

FOLLOW UP: ORD/RESO/AGMT/ORDER, ETC: ORIGINALS TO R&A
COPIES TO: _____

EXHIBIT A
BALLOT MEASURE _____

CAPTION: (10 Words)

Public Safety Five-Year Local Option Tax

QUESTION: (20 Words)

Shall Hood River County levy \$0.78 per \$1,000 assessed value for public safety services for five years beginning 2020?

This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

BALLOT SUMMARY: (175 Words)

The revenue from this measure would be placed in a dedicated account for public safety services. Expenditures would be reviewed annually by citizens on the budget committee. This measure would affect all aspects of the public safety and criminal justice system, including, but not limited to:

- *Law Enforcement Patrol
- *Criminal Investigations including Child Abuse and Domestic Violence
- *Criminal Prosecution
- *Emergency Management
- *Courthouse Security

The revenue from this measure would [help] secure funding for [approximately] 11 existing law enforcement patrol positions and add additional public safety personnel to support 24/7 patrol coverage, including an operational support position and two additional patrol deputies. Without this revenue, public safety positions will be eliminated, and the Sheriff will not have enough patrol deputies to provide 24/7 patrol coverage.

At \$0.78 per \$1,000 assessed value, the tax would cost \$13.24/month or \$159.93/year based on the median assessed home value.

The measure is estimated to generate: \$1,977,965 in 2020/21; \$2,037,304 in 2021/22; \$2,098,423 in 2022/23; \$2,161,376 in 2023/24; and \$2,226,217 in 2024/25. Unless renewed the measure expires at the end of five years.

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.

EXHIBIT B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Hood River County has depleted its financial reserves and can no longer maintain current levels of county services without additional revenue. After holding focus groups, public budget workshops and evaluating public survey results, the Board of Commissioners is asking voters to approve a Public Safety Levy of \$.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The revenue from this operating levy would be dedicated to public safety services.

The County's population has increased 23.6% since 2000, and public safety staffing levels have not kept pace. The Sheriff has experienced a 20% increase in incoming calls for service between 2011-2019. When the number of patrol deputies does not keep pace with population growth, call response times are slower, and the Sheriff cannot safely staff law enforcement patrol to provide 24/7 coverage countywide. Approval of this measure would [help] secure funding for [approximately] 11 existing patrol positions and add additional public safety personnel to support 24/7 patrol coverage, including an operational support position and two additional patrol deputies.

Approval of this measure would also [help] secure existing funding for criminal justice services, including child abuse and domestic violence investigations, transporting prisoners, courthouse security and criminal prosecution services in conjunction with the District Attorney.

Without approval of this measure, public safety positions will be eliminated, and the Sheriff will not have enough patrol deputies to provide 24/7 patrol coverage. Service reductions will be implemented countywide due to the budget shortfall.

The proposed levy is a five-year local option tax. It cannot be renewed without voter approval. At \$.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the tax would cost approximately \$13.24/month, or \$159.93/year based on the median assessed home value in Hood River County. The measure is estimated to generate: \$1,977,965 in 2020-21; \$2,037,304 in 2021-22; \$2,098,423 in 2022-23; \$2,161,376 in 2023-24; and \$2,226,217 in 2024-25.

DRAFT

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF

HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF REFERRING TO THE)	
VOTERS AT THE MAY 19, 2020 ELECTION)	
A MEASURE FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY)	RESOLUTION NO. _____
FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX)	

The HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS hereby resolves:

1. A measure election is called for the purpose of referring to the electors of Hood River County a measure authorizing a local option tax rate levy in the amount of \$0.78 per \$1000 assessed value for a total of five years, beginning with Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The purpose of the levy is to obtain revenue for funding Public Safety Services, with such purpose specified in the Ballot Title.

2. The measure in the Ballot Title, attached hereto as Exhibit A, shall be referred to the qualified electors of Hood River County for their “yes” or “no” vote.

3. The Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement attached hereto and marked as Exhibits A and B are approved for submission to the Hood River County Elections Officer (County Clerk) for the May 19, 2020 Election.

4. Hood River County General Counsel will certify form SEL 801, Notice of County Measure Election, as required by law.

5. Following certification, Counsel shall cause to be delivered to the County Clerk this Resolution, Ballot Title, form SEL 801 and Explanatory Statement for the voter’s pamphlet, for further action as required by law for placement on the May 19, 2020 election ballot.

6. The County Clerk shall give notice of receipt of the Ballot Title, and notice of electors’ right to petition for review of the Ballot Title as provided by law.

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**ADOPTED THIS 18th day of February, 2020.
HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Michael Oates, Chair

Karen Joplin, Commissioner

Rich McBride, Commissioner

Robert Benton, Commissioner

Les Perkins, Commissioner