



COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

Monday, January 29, 2024 at 9:00 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Jessica Chilton
Councilor Mark Gundersen
Councilor Russell Hubbard
Councilor Brandon Sundeen

LOCATION & CONTACT:

Zoom Only (details below)
Website | www.sthelensoregon.gov
Email | kpayne@sthelensoregon.gov
Phone | 503-397-6272
Fax | 503-397-4016

AGENDA

CALL SPECIAL SESSION TO ORDER

RESOLUTION

- 1. Resolution No. 2000:** A Resolution to Submit the Electors of the City of St. Helens the Question of Adoption of a 5-Year Local Option Levy Not to Exceed the Amount of \$0.52 Per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value for Police Protection Services Staffing Beginning Fiscal Year 2024-2025

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BALLOT TITLE

- 2.** Approve Notice of Proposed Ballot Title for Creation of Police Protection Services Staff Funding Local Option Tax

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

VIRTUAL MEETING DETAILS

Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82303252424?pwd=eWxDLzBiMGRpbWRjUU40TnZnbXNJUT09>
Passcode: 738372
Call in: 253-215-8782

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to City Hall at 503-397-6272.

Be a part of the vision and get involved...volunteer for a City Board or Commission! For more information or for an application, go to www.sthelensoregon.gov or call 503-366-8217.

City of St. Helens
RESOLUTION NO. 2000

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ST. HELENS THE QUESTION OF ADOPTION OF A 5-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$0.52 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES STAFFING BEGINNING FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of St. Helens, Columbia County, Oregon, (the "City") hereby determines that the City should submit to its voters the question of authorizing the City to levy local option taxes of \$0.52 Per \$1,000 of assessed property value each year for five years, beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025 to provide funds for police protection services staffing, and an estimated five-year total of \$3,273,686 would be levied, i.e., \$604,411 for the first year, \$628,587 for the second year, \$653,731 in the third year, \$679,881 in the fourth year, and \$707,076 in the fifth year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY THAT:

Section 1. A measure election is hereby called for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City the question of authorizing the local option levy described in the attached Exhibit A.

Section 2. The measure election hereby called shall be held in the City at the May 2024 election, in accordance with the Oregon Law.

Section 3. The Common Council hereby authorizes the City Recorder to submit a notice of measure election (Exhibit B) and explanatory statement (Exhibit C) to the Elections Officer of Columbia County, Oregon.

Section 4. The City Administrator and City Recorder are authorized and directed to execute all documents, and publish all notices required by law to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Approved and adopted by the City Council on January 29, 2024, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Rick Scholl, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder

**CITY OF ST. HELENS, OREGON
FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY
BALLOT MEASURE**

Caption: (10 words)

Creation of Police Protection Services Staff Funding Local Option Tax

Question: (20 words)

Shall City assess five-year operating levy for police at rate of \$0.52 Per \$1,000 assessed value beginning 2024-2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: (175 words)

The City's current tax revenues cannot support quantity of officers needed to protect and serve our city.

The City will use the levy to create an Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund. This will be used exclusively for increasing law enforcement presence throughout St. Helens and increasing police officer presence within the city. This fund would add three additional officers, necessary equipment, necessary training, and enable the police to continue to provide 24/7 law enforcement coverage in St. Helens as well as reduce response times.

In order to provide these basic services, the City is requesting a new five-year levy to a rate of \$0.52 Per \$1,000 assessed property value. The City will use the tax revenue from this measure to fund additional police officers.

The levy will raise approximately \$604,411 in 2024-25; \$628,587 in 2025-26; \$653,731 in 2026-27; \$679,881 in 2027-28; and \$707,076 in 2028-29. The levy would then expire.

For a home assessed value of \$200,000 the annual cost of this levy would be an estimated \$104 per year.

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 the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression, and the collection rate.

Notice of Measure Election

City

Exhibit B

SEL

Item #1.

rev 01/18 ORS 250.03
250.275, 250.285, 254.095, 254.465

Notice

Date of Notice

January 29, 2024

Name of City or Cities

St. Helens

Date of Election

May 21, 2024

Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the city's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Creation of Police Protection Services Staff Funding Local Option Tax

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall City assess five-year operating levy for police at rate of \$0.52 Per \$1,000 assessed value beginning 2024-2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

The City's current tax revenues cannot support quantity of officers needed to protect and serve our city.

The City will use the levy to create an Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund. This will be used exclusively for increasing law enforcement presence throughout St. Helens and increasing police officer presence within the city. This fund would add three additional officers, necessary equipment, necessary training, and enable the police to continue to provide 24/7 law enforcement coverage in St. Helens as well as reduce response times.

In order to provide these basic services, the City is requesting a new five-year levy to a rate of \$0.52 Per \$1,000 assessed property value. The City will use the tax revenue from this measure to fund additional police officers.

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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 the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression, and the collection rate.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the city governing body; **or**

→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Authorized City Official Not required to be notarized.

Name

John Walsh

Title

City Administrator

Mailing Address

265 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051

Contact Phone

503-397-6272

By signing this document:

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the city to submit this Notice of Measure Election; **and**

→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature

Date Signed

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Ballot Title Caption: City of St. Helens Police Protection Services Staffing Fund Local Option Tax

Measure Number: _____ Word Total (500 Maximum): 245

Governing Body: City of St. Helens

Person Responsible for Content: John Walsh, City Administrator

Signature: _____

The City of St. Helens has a permanent tax rate of \$1.9078. This rate was set in 1997 and has not risen despite increases in all expenses. There is an annual cap of 3% that can be added yearly on property taxes to help these increased expenses. This is not enough to cover all services needed by our City to function.

The City of St. Helens has less than half the national average for law enforcement coverage per person. The national average is 3.5 police officers to 1,000 citizens. The City of St. Helens is 1.38. The City of St. Helens Police Department is understaffed.

Our police officers are under increasing demands due to increased population and the decriminalization of drugs. This increase in property and violent crimes severely impacts the citizens of St. Helens.

This measure would create an Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund to be used exclusively for increasing law enforcement presence in the city. It would add three additional officers, necessary equipment, necessary training, and enable the police to continue to provide 24/7 law enforcement coverage in St. Helens as well as reduce response times.

If approved, this levy would raise approximately \$3,273,686 for police protection services over the 5-year period.

Estimated annual cost:

The approximate rate for the operating fund is \$0.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a home assessed at a value of \$200,000 the annual cost of this levy would be \$104 per year or \$0.28 per day.



City of St. Helens

265 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051
Phone: 503-397-6272 www.sthelensoregon.gov

Notice of Proposed Ballot Title

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Helens is referring to the voters, for approval at the May 21, 2024 General Election, a measure requesting to impose a city tax for police protection services staff funding.

The City Council has approved the following ballot title for consideration by the voters in the May 21, 2024 Election:

Caption: (10 words)

Creation of Police Protection Services Staff Funding Local Option Tax

Question: (20 words)

Shall City assess five-year operating levy for police at rate of \$0.52 Per \$1,000 assessed value beginning 2024-2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: (175 words)

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For a home assessed value of \$200,000 the annual cost of this levy would be an estimated \$104 per year.

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 the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression, and the collection rate.

Any elector may file a petition for review of the ballot title with the Columbia County Circuit Court within seven (7) days of the day the ballot title is filed with the recorder. Such petition must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 2024.

Kathy Payne
City Elections Official

Publish: January 31, 2024