

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT TITLES—MAY 21, 2024

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

ONLY THE CAPTION AND QUESTION WILL APPEAR ON YOUR OFFICIAL BALLOT AND ONLY THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR EACH PRECINCT WILL APPEAR ON THAT PRECINCT'S BALLOT.

CITY OF PORTLAND

Referred to the People by the City Council

26-245 Renew Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax for Street Repair, Maintenance, Safety

Question: Shall Portland renew four-year, 10 cents per gallon fuel tax for maintenance (paving, potholes) and safety (crossings, lighting, sidewalks)?

Summary: Portland's 10 cents per gallon fuel tax was approved by voters in 2016 and 2020. If renewed at the same tax rate, this measure is estimated to raise \$70.5 million over four years, beginning January 2025. The funding would continue to be dedicated to street repair, maintenance and safety projects, including paving, pothole repair, sidewalk, crossings and other safety improvements.

Specific proposed investments include:

Street Repair and Maintenance

- \$23.5 million for paving, with programs focused on busy and neighborhood streets

Safety

- \$9 million for safety on busy streets
- \$6 million for safety on neighborhood streets
- \$6 million for Safe Routes to School projects
- \$2.5 million for additional safety improvements

Community Street Services

- \$17 million for potholes, gravel streets, pavement base repair, signal and street light maintenance
- \$6.5 million for basic safety improvements, including intersection safety improvements and traffic calming

Expenditures are reviewed by a public oversight committee and go through independent financial audits. Establishes license requirements.

CITY OF GRESHAM

26-247 Five-year operating levy, retain and hire firefighters and police officers.

QUESTION: Shall Gresham improve fire, police, and public safety responsiveness with a five-year levy, \$1.35/\$1,000 assessed value, beginning July 1, 2024? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: Gresham's population has grown 19% over the past twenty years, while daily minimum firefighter staffing only increased 9%. Gresham has one less sworn police officer than twenty years ago.

Over the same time, calls for fire service have increased 69% and shootings in Gresham have spiked 400% in recent years. The combination of rising need and fewer personnel means slower emergency response times and fewer patrol officers to prevent crimes.

This levy will retain existing positions, fund 13 new firefighters and 9 new police officers. By law, the levy can only be used for police and fire services.

The current \$15 per month Police, Fire and Parks fee only funds 9% of public safety services and is not enough to meet the growing demand for services. A dedicated levy will enhance fire and police protection and responsiveness. The levy will not replace the existing fee.

The average cost of the levy on a Gresham home would be \$25.65 per month (based on an average assessed, not market, value of \$228,000), beginning July 1, 2024.

Estimated revenue:

- \$12,100,000 in 2024/25
- \$12,450,000 in 2025/26
- \$12,800,000 in 2026/27
- \$13,200,000 in 2027/28
- \$13,600,000 in 2028/29
- Five-year total: \$64,150,000

METRO

Referred to the People of the Metro region by the Metro Council

26-244 Bonds to protect animal health; provide conservation, education; increase sustainability

Question: Shall Zoo protect animal health; save water, energy; provide conservation, youth education; issue bonds estimated not to increase tax rate?

If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of Sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Summary: This measure authorizes \$380 million in general obligation bonds for the Oregon Zoo to:

- Protect animal health and well-being by updating aging exhibits with more natural, modern habitats, including but not limited to penguins, sea otters, giraffes.
- Improve facilities to enhance educational opportunities for children and other zoo visitors to learn about animals and habitat conservation.
- Conserve water and energy in zoo operations and updated infrastructure.
- Improve facilities supporting the zoo's conservation work protecting and restoring threatened/endangered species in the Northwest and beyond.
- Increase accessibility for visitors of all abilities, including improved paths and exhibits.
- Improve protection from heat and extreme weather for animals, visitors.
- Improve facilities to prepare for animal care in a natural disaster or emergency.

This measure is estimated not to increase current bond tax rates, due to scheduled debt service reductions. Bonds may be issued in multiple series and mature in no more than 30 years. The estimated average rate is 8.5 cents/\$1,000 assessed value.

Requires annual financial audits, and annual reports to Metro Council by community oversight committee.

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

26-246 Levy Renewal to Maintain Teachers and Classroom Support Staff

Question: Shall district maintain teachers, classroom support staff; renew levy of \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2025? This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary: Portland Public Schools' local option levy was approved by voters in 2019 to provide funding for schools over five years. The renewed levy will provide an estimated \$101.5 million in the first year and is projected to fund approximately 660 teachers and classroom support staff annually over five years.

This renewed local option levy would fund teaching and other positions to:

- Support a well-rounded education, including career and technical programs and enrichments and electives, so students graduate with the skills they need to be career or college ready.
- Provide classroom supports, such as educational assistants and reading specialists for students struggling with academic or mental/behavioral health issues.
- Help maintain class sizes and prevent significant increases across the district.

Levy rate remains \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed property value, the same as the 2019 levy.

Funds will be placed in a separate account; independent community oversight will review

expenditures to verify funds are used as approved by voters. No levy funds will be spent for administration. District is subject to annual independent financial and performance audits.

The levy will raise an estimated \$101.5 million in 2025-2026; \$103.0 million in 2026-2027; \$106.0 million in 2027-2028; \$109.3 million in 2028-2029; and \$112.5 million in 2029-30.

TUALATIN VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

34-332 LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Question: Shall TVF&R levy \$0.69 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years, beginning Fiscal Year 2025-2026?

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

Summary: Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue is seeking a levy for \$0.69 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Levies must be approved by voters and are limited to a maximum duration of five years. For a property assessed at \$305,000, the average in TVF&R's service area, the levy would cost approximately \$17.54 a month.

If the levy does not pass, funding for at least 92 of 450 firefighters and paramedics would be lost and staffing reductions would be required.

If passed, levy funds will:

- Retain existing first responders and add 36 more.
- Improve service levels as emergency incidents are projected to increase over the next five years.
- Ensure prompt response times and reliability when multiple emergencies happen at the same time.
- Purchase specialized medical equipment such as cardiac monitors and defibrillators as well as critical firefighting tools including thermal imagers that aid in search and rescue and breathing apparatus worn by firefighters in burning buildings.
- Purchase vehicles used to fight wildfires, shuttle water, and transport patients.
- Add personnel who train and equip first responders.

An estimate of the revenue raised for each year of the proposed levy is:

FY 2025-2026: \$ 54,032,329
 FY 2026-2027: \$ 56,354,401
 FY 2027-2028: \$ 58,776,263
 FY 2028-2029: \$ 61,302,205
 FY 2029-2030: \$ 63,936,696

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessors at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression, and the collection rate.

URBAN FLOOD SAFETY AND WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

26-243 Bonds to upgrade levees, floodwalls, water pumps, natural floodplain restoration.

Question: Shall Flood Safety District issue bonds to upgrade infrastructure, protect water quality, communities, businesses, environment from flooding; require independent oversight?

If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Summary: If passed, bond proceeds would upgrade aging flood safety infrastructure along the Columbia River. The current system is over 100 years old. In a changing climate, the system does not meet federal requirements.

Congress authorized nearly \$100,000,000 for flood safety projects, which may be unlocked for a limited period with local match. This measure would authorize issuing up to \$150,000,000 in principal amount of general obligation bonds for Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District.

Estimated annual tax rate for bonds would be \$0.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The owner of a home assessed at \$246,712 would pay approximately \$2.19 per month, \$26.27 annually. This is the average assessed home value in the District, according to County Assessor. Bonds may be issued in multiple series, each maturing within 20 years of issuance.

This measure would finance capital costs for District purposes to protect communities, businesses, PDX airport, and the environment, including by:

- Raising levees, upgrading floodwalls, pumps, pipes, drains.
- Supporting natural floodplain restoration and resilience projects.

District would establish bond oversight committee. Audits required.