

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 13-02-12-06

**IN THE MATTER OF REFERRING A
FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY TO
THE VOTERS OF LANE COUNTY TO
RESTORE JAIL BEDS AND CRITICAL
YOUTH TREATMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS, jail operations and youth services are currently funded by the discretionary general fund, as well as federal and state revenues, local fees, and grants, through the annual budget process which appropriates these multiple revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, Lane County's federal revenue from public lands has declined from annual payments of \$42M to \$2.5M during the past six years; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund portion of that revenue has declined from \$15M to \$1.5M during that same time period; and

WHEREAS, sixty-six percent of the discretionary general fund pays for services considered part of the Lane County public safety structure; and

WHEREAS, this precipitous decline has led to staffing cuts to all services that utilize General Fund, but has hit the public safety departments more severely, including the Office of the District Attorney, Sheriff's Office, and Department of Youth Services; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has reduced expenditures in part by reducing county paid health care benefits to all employees and reorganizing/combining departments to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, a multitude of Lane County residents have testified to the Board of Commissioners that they expect the first priority of their local government is to ensure public safety; and

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

WHEREAS, individual Commissioners, the Lane County Sheriff, and the District Attorney have held extensive community meetings and information sessions about the public safety situation; and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that Lane County's federal revenue from public lands will increase at any point in the foreseeable future because the United States Congress is unlikely to agree upon policies and/or appropriations that fulfill the promises made when perpetual public land ownership was initially proposed; and

WHEREAS, Lane County voters have consistently rejected attempts to provide revenue for broad sets of service programs related to public safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Lane County Board of Commissioners directs the Administrator to forward the proposed ballot language for a 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 2013 election for the purposes of funding jail and youth services; and,

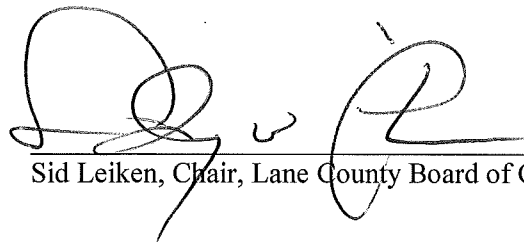
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if this measure passes, the Administrator shall direct appropriate staff to create a special revenue fund to account for all revenue collected in order to ensure the use of such revenue for the specific purposes described herein and in the ballot measure; and

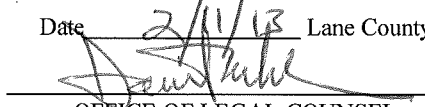
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if this measure passes, the Board of County Commissioners shall continue to appropriate Discretionary General Funds to fund jail services which together with the new revenue from the levy will provide for the consistent operation of at least 255 local adult jail beds, 8 youth detention beds and 8 youth treatment beds for critical youth services for the duration of the temporary levy; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Board of County Commissioners shall strive to act consistently with the Board's approved motion at its regularly convened Board meeting on February 12, 2013, suggesting jail operations shall receive approximately 91% the amount collected from the levy, and critical youth services shall receive approximately 9% of the amount collected from the levy; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Board of County Commissioners shall 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. The first audit report shall be received no later than June 2014 to report on the first six months of operations, followed by annual audits each year beginning December 2014 and ending December 2018.

ADOPTED this 12th day of February, 2013.


Sid Leiken, Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 2/11/13 Lane County

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE

Caption

Restores Jail and Critical Youth Services, a five-year levy (10 words)

Question

Shall Lane County restore jail beds and critical youth treatment services by levying \$0.55 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, commencing 2013. This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent. (20 words)

Summary

Passage of this measure will allow Lane County and Sheriff Tom Turner to:

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

Provide additional counseling, secure treatment and detention services for Lane County youth offenders. This will ensure that more community youth offenders will receive treatment services.

The funds generated from this tax must be placed into a restricted special revenue fund specifically earmarked for 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 Commissioners to ensure accountability.

After five years, this tax rate automatically sunsets, unless re-approved by Lane County voters. This measure generates revenue for five years beginning in 2013 and for the median home in Lane County, valued at \$154,809, the annual tax payment will increase by \$85.

The estimated tax which would be raised by this levy are 2013/14-\$15,268,806; 2014/15-\$15,574,182; 2015/16-\$15,885,666; 2016/17-\$16,203,379, and 2017/18-\$16,527,446 for a total of \$79,459,479. (168 words)