

EXHIBIT B**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

This measure will increase the capacity of the Coos County Jail by 50 percent and enable the District Attorney's Office to prosecute more crime through the hiring of additional prosecutors.

The currently funded capacity of the jail allows the Sheriff's Office to hold 98 Adults in Custody. The money raised through this measure will make it possible to open another housing unit, increasing available bed space from 98 to 147. This increase will greatly reduce the need for releases due to overcrowding.

This measure will also fund prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office. Currently, the District Attorney is forced to determine what crimes he and his team have the capacity to prosecute. More prosecutors will enable the Office to handle backlogged cases and other cases that are currently turned away due to staffing limitations.

A larger number of prosecuted cases will likewise increase the ability of Coos County to enroll offenders in treatment and rehabilitation services through Community Corrections. The State of Oregon funds Coos County Community Corrections based on the number of parole and probation clients they have; any increase in the number of sentenced offenders will result in additional state funding for Coos County.

Coos County is proposing a local option levy of \$0.98 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$196.00 per year to support this levy, or \$0.54 per day. A property assessed at \$300,000 would pay \$294.00 per year, or \$0.81 per day. The new levy would begin July 1, 2024, and automatically expire on June 30, 2029, unless re-approved by Coos County voters.

A separate, dedicated fund will be created to hold funds collected through this levy and will be used to pay for jail operations and prosecutorial services through the DA's Office. Those services are currently paid for through the General Fund. By using levy funds, the previously used General Fund money will be available to offset an estimated FY 24-25 shortfall of \$4,000,000.