

Notice of Measure Election

SEL 801

rev 01/18: ORS 250.035, 250.041,
250.175, 254.103, 254.465

County

6-178

Notice		
Date of Notice March 5, 2020	Name of County or Counties Coos County	Date of Election May 19, 2020
Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county'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.		
Local option tax to replace failing 911 radio communications system.		
Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.		
Shall Coos County impose \$.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years beginning 07/01/2020 for a 911 radio system? 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.		
<p>The 911 radio system has failed more than four times in the last seven months, leaving fire, medical and police responders without radio communications. The manufacturer no longer supports the system and used parts are scarce, expensive, and difficult to find. Lack of radio communications has led to dangerous situations for both responders and citizens calling for help.</p> <p>The failing 911 system supports 16-fire agencies, 3-ambulance services, 12-police agencies and the County Road Department. The infrastructure and capability upgrades have been designed and planned in a collaborative effort with the Coos Forest Protective Association.</p> <p>Replacing the radio system will require a levy in the amount of \$.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value, ending in five years. This amount includes a built-in maintenance fund. The levy is estimated to raise \$1,194,908.11 in 2020-2021, \$1,230,755.36 in 2021-2022, \$1,267,678.02 in 2022-2023, \$1,305,708.36 in 2023-2024, and \$1,344,879.61 in 2024-2025. Any collected funds will be dedicated to 911 communications, and cannot be used for any other purpose, pursuant to ORS 280.040(2)(b).</p>		
Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.		
<p>If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:</p> <p>→ any measure referred by the county governing body; or</p> <p>→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Explanatory Statement Attached? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		
Authorized County Official Not required to be notarized.		
Name Nathaniel Greenhalgh-Johnson	Title County Counsel	
Mailing Address 250 North Baxter Street, Coquille, OR 9742	Contact Phone 541-396-7693	
<p><i>By signing this document:</i></p> <p>→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the county to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and</p> <p>→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.</p>		


Signature

03/05/2020
Date Signed

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Effective response for all emergency services in Coos County relies on a 911 radio communication system, which ensures fire department, ambulance and police services receive emergency calls and are able to respond. The radio system is past its expected replacement date, and is experiencing failures at an increasing rate. To address the safety issues created by the radio system failures, Coos County proposes to upgrade the system, which will require a local option tax in the amount of \$.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years.

The 911 radio system has been continually failing, with incidences increasing in frequency, and repairs becoming more difficult. In October of 2019, the entire system was inoperable for a period of about 36 hours. Parts were borrowed from other towers in the county, which enabled the system's operation while searching for replacement parts. As new parts are no longer manufactured, old used parts were ordered online. As of now, those parts are maintaining the system, but are unreliable, expensive and increasingly more difficult to find.

To address the continuing system failures, a planning group has been working on a replacement system since August, 2018. The group represents all aspects of emergency services, including Emergency Management, ambulance, fire, police, civilian and the Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA). CFPA has offered space on several radio towers, which will allow for an increase from six to thirteen tower sites, which includes towers for Coos Bay and North Bend emergency services. This will fix holes in radio communication which would otherwise not be addressed.

Payment options for the replacement 911 radio system have been exhaustively researched, including grants, loans, leases, cost-share analysis and installment plans. After weighing the options, Coos County proposes a local option tax in the amount of \$0.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which will fully fund the repair and upgrade to our emergency radio communications system. The funds raised by the tax will include a built-in maintenance fund for unanticipated repair needs. The average assessed residential property value in Coos County is approximately \$163,000. A \$0.20 levy on a similar property value will create a tax of \$2.72 per month.