

Josephine County voters' pamphlet



Oregon Vote-by-Mail Special Election

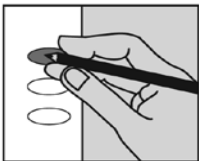
November 7, 2017

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Examine your **Official Ballot** and locate the response of your choice. To vote, you must completely darken the oval (●) to the left of the response of your choice with black or blue ink.

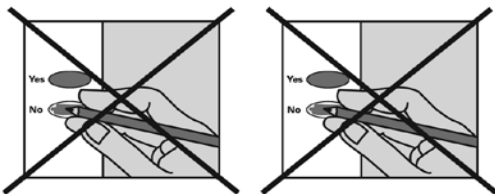
check your ballot!

Make sure you have completely filled in the ovals next to your choices.



If you vote for more candidates than allowed, or if you vote **both Yes and No** on a measure, it is called an overvote.

Your vote **will not count** for that candidate or measure.



You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.

Contact Josephine County Elections to request a replacement ballot if:

- you make a mistake
- your ballot is damaged or spoiled
- your ballot is lost

or for any other reason.

Josephine County Elections
500 NW 6th St., Dept. 1, Rm. #170
Grants Pass, OR 97526

541 474 5243
www.co.josephine.or.us

Assistance in Marking Ballot; Allowances and Limitations

Any voter who, due to a disability or inability to read or write, is unable to mark their ballot may receive assistance. The assistance is provided either by two persons of different political parties provided by the county clerk or by some other person chosen by the voter. Any person assisting a voter must follow the direction of the voter as to how to vote the ballot. Also, the person assisting the voter must not afterwards give out any information about how the voter voted. Additionally, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an employer of the voter or an agent of the employer. Also, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an officer or agent of a union of which the voter is a member. (ORS 254.445)

RETURN YOUR BALLOT

• **By mail:** Attach first-class postage to the signed and sealed return identification envelope. Mail it as soon as possible to arrive at the Josephine County Clerk's office no later than 8:00 p.m. Election Day. **Postmarks do not count!**

• **In person at the official drop sites:** Deliver the signed and sealed return identification envelope to the official drop site no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Postage is NOT required if delivered to the official ballot drop sites.

DROP SITE LOCATION

Open from October 18, 2017 until 8 pm, November 7, 2017

Josephine County Courthouse

The County Clerk's Office (7:50 am-5:00 pm, Mon.-Fri.)
Open 7 am until 8 pm on election day
Justice Building Side, ground floor next to the elevator
(24 hours / 7 days)
Next to the "C" Street Entrance (Tax Office entrance)
(24 hours / 7 days)

Drive-up Ballot Drop

Parking lot behind library. Enter from "C" Street
(24 hours / 7 days)

Merlin

Umpqua Bank, Merlin Rd. & Monument Dr., parking lot
(24 hours / 7 days)

Murphy

Hidden Valley Market, in front, on the left side of the building
(24 hours / 7 days)

South G.P.

Washington Federal, 290 Union Ave., front parking lot
(24 hours / 7 days)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Registering to Vote

To vote in Oregon you need to be registered in the county where you reside.

You can register if you can answer yes to these three questions:

- Are you a resident of Oregon?
- Are you a US citizen?
- Are you at least 17 years of age?

If you are 17 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

How to register

You can register to vote online at www.oregonvotes.gov or you can get a voter registration card at any of the following places:

- any county elections office
- the Secretary of State's Office
- some state agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles
- a voter registration drive

You can fill the card out in person or send it in by US mail.

You can also print out a registration card online at:

www.oregonvotes.gov

Updating your voter registration

Once you have registered, you are responsible for keeping your information up to date. You can do this online at www.oregonvotes.gov or by completing and returning a voter registration card with the new information. You should update your registration if you do any of the following:

- change your home address
- change your mailing address
- change your name
- change your signature
- want to change or select a political party
- will be away from home on election day

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE BALLOTS: 8 P.M. ELECTION DAY, November 7, 2017

Measure 17-83 City of Grants Pass

Referred to the People by Grants Pass City Council

17-83

Three-year City Police & Fire Local Option Tax

Question: Shall Grants Pass levy \$1.79 per \$1,000 assessed value, continuing City Police and Fire services three years beginning July 2018? This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary: This is not a new tax. This tax renews the current City Police and Fire levy. The current levy for Grants Pass Police and Fire operations ends June 30, 2018. The replacement levy would continue funding emergency police and fire response – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Public Safety services include neighborhood patrols, detectives, criminal investigation, traffic enforcement, fire protection, fire prevention, rescue, drug enforcement, gang prevention, dispatch, crisis support, Citizens Public Safety Academy, and response to vehicle crashes and emergency medical calls. The replacement levy would help maintain current City Police and Fire response time standards to emergency calls.

This replacement levy would fund only City Police and Fire operations and would ensure City police officers and firefighters are not laid off when the current levy ends on June 30, 2018.

This 3-year local option levy of \$1.79 per \$1,000 assessed value would fund City Police and Fire operations. The levy would be approximately \$299 per year for the average Grants Pass home.

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 estimate. The proposed rate would raise approximately \$5,538,000 in Fiscal Year 2018-2019, \$5,676,000 in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and \$5,818,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Explanatory Statement

CONTINUED POLICE AND FIRE SERVICE. This is not a new tax. This tax would replace the current City police and fire levy at exactly the same tax rate. Since 1986, City voters have approved police and fire financing by approving levies. In 2013, local voters approved the current levy for Police and Fire/Rescue services. It expires June 30, 2018. The proposed levy would replace the expiring levy to continue to fund City police and fire services for the next three years.

POLICE AND FIRE FUNDING. Public Safety in Grants Pass includes Police, Fire/Rescue, Emergency Communications, 911 and Dispatch, Code Enforcement, and Crisis Support Services. All property taxes collected in Grants Pass are used exclusively for these police and fire services. Over the past two decades, the permanent property taxes have not been enough to support police and fire services. Police and Fire local option taxes, such as this one, have been approved to provide public safety funding.

WOULD MAINTAIN CURRENT POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES. This Local Option Tax Rate Levy would maintain current services including police and fire/rescue emergency responses, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, 911 and dispatch services, traffic enforcement, gang prevention, major crimes investigations, neighborhood patrols, crime/fire prevention, school programs, drug enforcement, K-9 program, community policing, citizen public safety academy, vehicle crash response and emergency medical response.

TAX IMPACTS. This proposal is for a three-year local option tax levy to fund City Police and Fire Services from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. The tax rate for this levy would be \$1.79 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The proposed rate would provide approximately \$5,538,000 in Fiscal Year 2018-2019, \$5,676,000 in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and \$5,818,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. For a single family home in Grants Pass with a real market value of approximately \$205,692 and a taxable assessed value of \$166,762, if the levy is approved, the property owner would continue to pay a tax of \$1.79 per \$1,000 assessed value or approximately \$299 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

RENEWAL OF CURRENT LOCAL OPTION TAXES. Renewing the Local Option Tax would continue to provide tax funding for Public Safety. If the levy is not approved, this tax resource would

not be available to Public Safety. This replacement levy is to help maintain the current City Police and Fire response time standards for emergency calls. If approved, the continuing levy would remain unchanged from the levy that will expire June 30, 2018.

A “yes” vote would be in favor of the Local Option Tax Levy. A “no” vote would be against the Local Option Tax Levy.

(This information furnished by Karen Frerk, City Recorder, City of Grants Pass.)

Argument in Favor

We worked hard this year to keep the Department of Public Safety's budget down, knowing city residents would have to pay more for public safety, due to passage of the county's jail and juvenile detention levy in May. Council voted to hold the levy at \$1.79 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, the same as it has been for the past nine fiscal years. Renewal of the city levy this year would extend that rate for another three years.

The Department of Public Safety has held its costs down in recent years by forming partnerships with other agencies, nonprofits and businesses. For example, Grants Pass School District 7 pays for marshals to keep schools safe, while Public Safety supplies the personnel, most of them recently retired officers.

Other examples of its partnerships include the 911 Call Center, paying the Women's Crisis Support Team to aid in domestic violence cases, helping fund Hearts with a Mission to aid homeless youngsters, the state's first Sobering Center and a mobile kitchen to replace one in the middle of town.

The city has also taken the lead in the Rogue Area Drug Enforcement team to hold it together when the state withdrew its officers from such teams statewide due to budget shortages. In addition, Public Safety formed a Nuisance Intervention Team to patrol crime hotspots in the city.

Council also voted to move the Public Safety Department out of the first floor of the courthouse, where both the 911 center and police administration would be severely damaged in an earthquake. That would leave city residents no place to turn for help when they needed it most. Purchase of another building was financed mainly by loans between funds, which Public Safety will pay off a little at a time.

We ask you to support your city police and firemen by voting “yes” on Measure 17.83.

Darin Fowler
Grants Pass mayor
Dennis Roler
Grants Pass City Council President

(This information furnished by Darin Fowler, Grants Pass Mayor, Dennis Roler, Grants Pass City Council President.)