

Washington County Measure No. 34-___

Explanatory Statement

What is the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District?

Voters established the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District (ESPD) in 1987 to provide an enhanced level of police response for residents in Washington County's urban area outside of cities. With funding from a local option levy, the Washington County Sheriff's Office has provided these public safety services focused inside urban unincorporated areas for over 30 years.

Replacing this levy would continue funding services that are similar to neighboring cities inside Washington County by maintaining current levels of police services in the District. These services would include: rapid response to 911 calls, funding for the Mental Health Response Team, advanced training in crisis intervention and de-escalation, connecting people experiencing homelessness with community resources and a public safety response to increased overdoses and drug abuse in the community.

Why is this replacement levy proposed?

To replace an expiring local option levy that ESPD voters approved so that policing services would be maintained in the District even with population growth over the next five years.

Who is served by the ESPD?

If you received an ESPD ballot, the ESPD serves you. These communities include: Aloha, Bethany, Bull Mountain, Bonnie Slope, Cedar Hills, Cedar Mill, Claremont, Cooper Mountain, Garden Home, Metzger, Oak Hills, Raleigh Hills, Reedville, Rock Creek, Somerset, Terra Linda, West Haven, West Slope and other urban areas outside of Beaverton, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, King City and Tigard.

What would levy funds pay for?

The replacement levy would pay for deputies, training, personnel and equipment to maintain current levels of ESPD services. The levy would help pay for:

- Ensuring a rapid response to 911 calls in nearly half the time of the national average.
- The county's Mental Health Response Team – which pairs a deputy and clinician to respond to people in crisis and divert them from the criminal justice system.
- Advanced training in crisis intervention and de-escalation for deputies to use when working with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Deputies connecting people experiencing homelessness with community resources.
- A public safety response to the increased overdoses and abuse of Xanax, OxyContin, Fentanyl and other drugs in the community.
- Maintaining current levels of policing services similar to neighboring cities.

What impact would this levy have on property taxes?

The replacement levy rate would be fixed at 83¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value (which is different than market value). This would be a 15¢ increase over the current rate. If approved, owners of a home with the average assessed value in the Patrol District of \$320,655 would pay about \$266 in the first year of the proposed levy, or about \$22 per month.

What happens if the current ESPD levy is not replaced?

The levy that expires in June 2023 would provide about half of ESPD funding. If this measure did not pass, levy funding supporting approximately 119 deputies would be cut and property taxes on a home with an average estimated assessed value would decrease by about \$211 next year.

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