

# Notice of Measure Election

34-333

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rev 01/18 ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.275, 250.285, 254.095, 254.465

City

## Notice

Date of Notice

February 29, 2024

Name of City or Cities

City of Tigard

Date of Election

May 21, 2024

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the city'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.

Renewal of Local Option Levy to Maintain Public Safety Services

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall Tigard renew the operating levy of \$0.29 per \$1,000 for public safety services for five years beginning 2025? This measure renews current local option taxes.

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

This measure renews the existing public safety and police services levy that expires June 2025. The original levy paid for 8 patrol officers and 1 school resource officer. The addition of these officers allowed an increase in minimum patrol staffing for the first time in over 25 years. Passage of the renewal levy would continue these investments, including:

- Retaining 8 patrol officers to respond to increased calls for service, multiple emergencies at the same time, and community patrols.
- Maintaining 1 existing school resource officer to enhance student safety.
- Continuing training for all sworn officers in advanced crisis intervention and de-escalation to address increased mental health crises.

Because this is a renewal, passage of this measure would not increase the current tax rate of \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The cost of this levy on a typical Tigard home with an assessed value of \$318,440 (\$542,750 market value) would be \$92.35 per year, or \$7.70 per month.

Estimated revenues for each year of the levy:

2025-26: \$2,500,000  
 2026-27: \$2,600,000  
 2027-28: \$2,710,000  
 2028-29: \$2,820,000  
 2029-30: \$2,930,000

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the city governing body; or

→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?

Yes

No

**Authorized City Official** Not required to be notarized.

Name

Steve Rymer

Title

City Manager

Mailing Address

13125 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223

Contact Phone

503-718-2486

By signing this document:

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the city to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and

→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature

Date Signed

2/28/2024 6:00 p.m.

The Tigard City Council is asking voters to consider a five-year renewal of an existing levy, which would continue to fund public safety and police services. Voting to renew the levy would not increase tax rates; it would maintain the current rate of \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the next five years.

### **What is the existing levy and what does it fund?**

Originally passed by Tigard voters in May 2020, the existing levy is set to expire in 2025. If passed, this proposed measure would allow the City of Tigard to:

- Retain 8 police officers who are already on patrol, responding to an increasing number of emergency calls and patrol neighborhoods,
- Retain 1 School Resource Officer (SRO), to maintain the presence of 1 SRO at each of the middle schools and high school for consistent safety support,
- Continue Advanced Crisis Intervention and De-escalation training for every patrol officer, to better equip officers to respond to calls involving people in crisis, and
- Retain 2 support staff positions in the police department, one in Property & Evidence and one in Records Management.

If the Public Safety Renewal Levy does not pass, current police services would not be funded as proposed and the current tax would expire at the end of fiscal year 2025.

### **Why does Tigard need additional police officers and advanced training?**

Before the passage of the original levy in 2020, minimum staffing levels for patrol had not increased since 1995. Even with the existing levy, there are an average of 3-5 police officers on patrol across the City of Tigard at any given time. Anytime an officer has to take a person to the Washington County Jail in Hillsboro, they are unavailable to respond to calls for service for 1-2 hours.

In addition, police calls for service continue to grow. In 2022, the Tigard Police Department saw nearly 1,000 more dispatched calls as compared to 2021. Not only are calls increasing in number, they are also increasing in complexity. Roughly 1 in 5 police calls in Tigard involve a person experiencing a mental health crisis. The Advanced Crisis Intervention and De-Escalation training funded by the levy allows Tigard officers to take a more comprehensive approach in their response.

### **Why hasn't funding kept pace with the need?**

Police services are primarily funded with general fund dollars, with property taxes making up approximately 50% of general fund revenues. Police services account for 56% of that fund, library services 21%, and general City services make up the remainder. Tigard has one of the lowest property tax rates in Washington County. Since 1990, the effect of state property tax law is to restrict property tax increases to 3% a year, while City costs go up at a higher rate of 3.5 to 4%. Costs are expected to double over the next approximately 20 years and property tax revenues will not keep pace with the costs of maintaining police services.

For additional information, please visit [www.tigard-or.gov/PublicSafetyRenewalLevy](http://www.tigard-or.gov/PublicSafetyRenewalLevy).