

City of Cornelius

Measure 34-174

Ballot Title

Cornelius Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Referred by Petition

Question: Shall City of Cornelius impose a \$0.02 per gallon motor vehicle fuel tax and repeal the street light fee?

Summary: The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 910 on August 10, 2009. It imposes a \$0.02 per gallon tax on motor vehicle fuel sold in the City. The ordinance also repeals the current \$2.25 monthly streetlight fee. The streetlight fee ends after motor vehicle fuel tax net revenues reach \$100,000.

The ordinance requires the use of fuel tax revenue for construction, financing, maintenance, design, repair, operation and use of City streets. Revenue from the fuel tax can be used to “match” state and federal grants. The City plans to use the fuel tax for specific street construction projects and annual repair of substandard streets.

The tax is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2010. This measure allows City voters to decide if the ordinance will take effect. If voters approve this measure, the fuel tax will begin and the streetlight fee will end. If voters reject this measure, the fuel tax will not take effect and the streetlight fee will continue.

Explanatory Statement

CITIZEN VOTE ON ORDINANCE 910

What does Ordinance 910 do?

Ordinance No. 910 created a 2¢/gallon tax on most motor vehicle fuel (gas or diesel) sold in the City. The money has to be used solely for the maintenance, construction and improvements of streets and sidewalks in the City. Ordinance 910 – adopted by the Council in August, 2009 – is expected to generate about \$180,000.00 annually for these purposes. Ordinance 910 also directs the City Council to repeal another fee – the Streetlight Fee – after the fuel tax generates \$100,000 in revenue.

Why is Ordinance 910 on the ballot?

The City Council approved Ordinance No. 910 on August 10, 2009; it was then referred to voters for approval. If approved, the Ordinance takes effect April 1, 2010.

What would be done with the funds raised by Ordinance 910?

The money collected from the tax stays with the City. The tax funds would be used to repair and reconstruct city streets and to match state and federal grants for major street improvements.

It costs around \$18,000.00 to remove old asphalt and then repave a city block; generally speaking, the City wants to repair about four blocks annually.

The money would also be used as the required “City matching funds” so work on major projects such as Baseline Street (OR 8) can go forward. Local matches – of up to 50% of the overall project cost for street repair or construction – are required so that the City can then get and use either state or Federal highway funds for city projects.

Who would pay?

The tax would be paid by anyone buying gas or diesel fuel in the City regardless of whether they are a Cornelius resident or not. About 40,000 vehicles a day use Adair/Baseline – most of them from outside the City – so it is very probable non-Cornelius residents will pay at least some of the tax.

What is the relationship to the Streetlight Fee?

Each Cornelius residence or business pays a fee of \$2.25/month to maintain and provide energy for more than 525 streetlights around the City. That fee provides a portion of the revenue for the Streets and Pathways Fund. If Ordinance 910 is approved by the voters, that fee would be repealed.

A person living in Cornelius – and thus paying the Streetlight Fee – would have to buy over 1350 gallons of fuel in Cornelius a year to pay more than they pay currently with the Streetlight Fee.

Submitted by:

Dave Waffle, City Manager, City of Cornelius

No Arguments Against this Measure were Filed.

City of Cornelius

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Argument For

Cornelius Healthy Street Supporters believe voters informed with the facts will support passage of the Fuel Tax.

Today:

- Each Cornelius residence or business pays a fee of **\$2.25/month** to maintain and provide energy for more than 525 streetlights around the city. This fee frees up **~\$80,000/year** from the general fund to maintain and repair roads. This had been only enough money to slurry seal a few blocks annually.
- Any significant street **repair** (example: Davis St.) or **improvement** (example: Adair St. curbs, gutters & sidewalks) has been accomplished with grant money. This is state or federal tax money that has been awarded to Cornelius historically because of its great need. We can't count on this money in the future and the co-pay for these grants is rising from 0-10% historically to estimates of **50%** in the future.
- **30,000 to 40,000 vehicles per day** drive thru Cornelius. This causes a lot of wear and tear on our streets. An example of this accelerated wear is 10th Ave. between Adair and Baseline.
- Lots of vehicles stop in Cornelius for fuel. Each person (resident or not) who fuels a vehicle in Cornelius pays Federal, State & County Fuel taxes. A small portion (maybe 3%) of the tax collected is returned to the city.

Cost: 2 cents per gallon of fuel

Benefits:

- 100% of the local fuel tax stays **LOCAL** and can **ONLY** be spent on street repairs, maintenance, improvements & related costs
- **EVERYONE** who buys fuel in Cornelius will contribute to the maintenance and repair of the streets
- It is estimated the Fuel Tax will collect **\$180,000/year**. Allowing it to easily replace the current \$2.25/month **resident only** paid Streetlight fee
- May save residents money over the Streetlight fee

We believe that a Fuel Tax that replaces the current Streetlight Fee will be better for Cornelius and encourage you to vote for the Fuel Tax.

This information furnished by:

Jeffrey Craig Dalin

Cornelius Healthy Street Supporters

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Washington County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.

**Ballot Drop Sites will be Open Beginning
February 19, 2010.**

**Ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. Election Day, Tuesday,
March 9, 2010.**

The Ballot Drop Sites available for this election are:

Cornelius City Hall
1355 N Barlow Street
Cornelius

Elections Office
3700 SW Murray Blvd
Beaverton
Front Lobby Drop Slot

Contact Washington County Elections to request a replacement ballot if:

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

Please call Washington County Elections at 503.846.5800 if you have questions or need further assistance.

Website: www.co.washington.or.us/elections
E-Mail: elections@co.washington.or.us