

Official Benton County Voters' Pamphlet November 6, 2007

# BENTON COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET



## SPECIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 6, 2007

PUBLISHED BY THE  
BENTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Please RECYCLE this pamphlet with your newspapers



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

408 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 111

P.O. Box 3020

Corvallis, OR 97339-3020

(541) 766-6800

FAX (541) 766-6893

Dear Fellow Benton County Voter:

On November 6, 2007, an election will be held in Benton County. As a registered voter, you will have an opportunity to exercise your right to vote on measures that impact Oregon, Benton County and special districts in your area.

The Board of Commissioners has directed the County Clerk to publish this **Benton County Voters' Pamphlet** as a way of providing voters with useful information concerning their choices for this election. To bring this information to the voters in the most efficient way, the pamphlet will be available on our website at [www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections](http://www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections); at the Benton County Elections Office; and will be included in each ballot envelope. A separate State Voters' Pamphlet will be sent to each household

Please remember that all ballots **must be received at an official ballot drop site in Oregon before 8:00 PM on November 6, 2007.** You can drop your ballot at one of the ballot receptacle locations listed on our website and in this pamphlet. The Elections Office is located in the basement of the historic Benton County Courthouse, 120 NW 4th Street, Corvallis, Oregon.

You will also find information on registering to vote, applying for absentee ballots, marking your ballot, and obtaining a replacement ballot. We hope this information will help you become better informed about the issues in this election as you prepare to make your decisions.

Sincerely,

*Annabelle Jaramillo*

Commissioner

*Linda Modrell*

Commissioner

*Jay Dixon*

Commissioner

**VOTE**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS AND OFFICIAL BALLOT DROPSITES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Board of Commissioners	2
Official Benton County Ballot Dropsites	3
-----MEASURES-----	
<u>Benton County</u>	
02-64 Public Safety and Health Services	4
Arguments For	5-8
Argument Against	9
<u>City of Monroe</u>	
02-63 Wastewater GO Bond	10
Argument For	11
<u>Harrisburg School District # 7</u>	
22-73 GO Bond Authorization	12
<u>Palestine Rural Fire Protection District</u>	
02-62 Five-Year Operating Levy	13
-----	
Voter Registration	
Ballot Information	
Contact Information	14
Casting Your Ballot	
Frequently Asked Questions	15

## BENTON COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICIAL BALLOT DROPSITES

**24-HOUR BALLOT DROP BOXES IN CORVALLIS**  
 Across from the Courthouse at 180 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and  
 Wells Fargo Bank in Timberhill Shopping Center  
 2543 NW Kings Blvd.

**CITY LIMITS MARKET**

5800 NW Highway 99W - North of Corvallis  
 Mon thru Fri 6 AM – 10 PM  
 Sat 8 AM – 10 PM, Sun 8 AM – 9 PM

**JOHN BOY'S ALSEA MERCANTILE STORE**

186 Main St - Alsea  
 Mon thru Sat 6 AM - 9 PM, Sun 7 AM – 8 PM

**CORVALLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

645 NW Monroe Ave - Corvallis  
 Mon thru Fri 10 AM - 9 PM, Sat 10 AM – 6 PM  
 Sun Noon - 6 PM

**LBCC – BENTON CENTER**

757 NW Polk Ave – Corvallis  
 Mon thru Thurs 7:30 AM - 9:30 PM  
 Fri 8 AM - 4 PM

**MONROE CITY HALL**

664 Commercial St - Monroe  
 Mon thru Fri 8 AM - 5 PM; Closed Noon - 1 PM\*

**OSU – VALLEY LIBRARY**

OSU Campus  
 Mon thru Thurs 7:30 AM – 1 AM  
 Fri 7:30 AM - 10 PM  
 Sat 10 AM - 10 PM, Sun 10 AM - 1 AM

**NORTH ALBANY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1205 NW North Albany Rd - Albany  
 Mon thru Fri 7 AM - 4 PM\*

**PHILOMATH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1050 Applegate St - Philomath  
 Mon, Thurs, Fri, & Sat 10 AM - 5 PM  
 Tues and Wed 10 AM - 8 PM

**SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER OF CORVALLIS**

2601 NW Tyler Ave - Corvallis  
 Mon thru Fri 8 AM - 4 PM\*

**BENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Main entrance foyer at top of stairs  
 and in the basement next to Room 13  
 120 NW 4<sup>th</sup> St - Corvallis  
 Mon thru Fri 8 AM - 5 PM\*  
 541 766-6756

Directions to dropsites can be found on our website  
 at [www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections](http://www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections)

**\*All ballot sites open until 8 PM Election Day**

# BENTON COUNTY

## Measure 02-64

### BALLOT TITLE

**CAPTION:** FIVE-YEAR LEVY TO RESTORE LIMITED PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH SERVICES

**QUESTION:** To restore and continue health and safety services, shall Benton County levy \$.90 per \$1,000 assessed valuation beginning in 2008-09? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

**SUMMARY:** This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout.

This measure would continue:

- Rental of 40 jail beds.

It would also fund restoration of limited health and safety services, including:

- Seven sheriff's deputies to resume 24-7 patrol and school resource program duties;
- Drug court for juveniles and adults;
- Juvenile counseling and outreach;
- Additional capacity for juvenile detention;
- Two prosecutors focused on street crimes and child abuse;
- Prevention of infectious disease outbreaks; and,
- Mental health, addiction, and children's health services.

At \$.90 per \$1,000, the tax would cost \$7.50 per month or \$90 per year for every \$100,000 of a property's assessed value. The net increase in tax rate in 2008 would be \$.64, or \$64/\$100,000, over the amount currently collected for the jail levy.

If federal forest payments are reauthorized in 2008 or subsequent years, the Board of Commissioners would reduce the tax levy proposed by this measure.

At the maximum rate this levy is estimated to impose taxes of \$5,445,000 in 2008-09, \$5,635,500 in 2009-10, \$5,832,700 in 2010-11, \$6,036,800 in 2011-12, and \$6,248,100 in 2012-13.

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The purpose of this levy is twofold. First, it would continue funding the rental of 40 jail beds for Benton County inmates in nearby county jails. Second, it would restore or continue funding for public safety and health services that have been affected by revenue shortages.

This levy would represent the first general tax increase since 1998. The \$.90 per \$1,000 *(Continued in the next column)*

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT *(continued)*

assessed value (AV) is inclusive of the existing \$.26 jail levy and would represent a net increase of \$.64 per \$1,000 of AV.

#### **Renewal of Jail Space Rental and Corrections Levy**

This levy would continue to fund rental of 40 jail beds for Benton County inmates and related services, including: Inmate placement and transportation; A transition program for inmates who complete their sentences and need assistance to return to the community; and, Video link technology, which enables judges to conduct video court appearances thereby reducing transportation costs. Since its passage in 2000 at \$.31, the Board of Commissioners has reduced the amount of the jail levy three times. It renewed the levy in 2003 at \$.29 and administratively reduced it to \$.26 in 2006 and again in 2007. This levy would replace the existing jail space levy beginning in 2008.

#### **Restoration of Limited Public Safety and Health Services**

This levy would also restore or continue specific health and safety services that have been impacted by revenue shortfalls, including:

- **Public Safety Services:** 24-hour sheriff's patrol and investigation; juvenile and adult drug courts; prosecution of additional street crimes and child abuse cases; counseling and outreach for juvenile offenders; one juvenile detention bed; and, the school resource deputy program that works with students on substance abuse and other prevention activities.
- **Health Services:** Communicable disease outbreak prevention and investigation; high-risk maternal/child healthcare nursing and, *A Community Integrated Service Team (ACIST)*, which provides prevention and early intervention to children at risk of abuse, chemical dependency, delinquency, and school failure.

#### **Reasons for Revenue Shortfall**

Over 20% of the land in Benton County is federally owned. The guaranteed payments to counties for federal land ended last year. Although the payments were later extended for one year, the County Budget Committee does not support using one-time revenue to fund continuing operations. Aside from the jail rental levy, Benton County has not raised taxes since 1998.

And, to maintain a balanced budget, Benton County has reduced the full-time equivalent of 23 positions and eliminated public service programs.

#### **Levy Cost**

At \$.90 per \$1,000, the tax would cost \$7.50 per month or \$90 per year for every \$100,000 of a property's assessed value. The net increase in tax rate in 2008 would be \$.64, or \$64 a year per \$100,000 of assessed value, over the amount currently collected for the jail levy.

If federal forest payments are reauthorized in 2008 or later, the Board of Commissioners would reduce the tax levy proposed by this measure. The levy would be for five years beginning in 2008.

*(Submitted by the Benton County Board of Commissioners)*

# BENTON COUNTY

## Measure 02-64

### ARGUMENT FOR

#### VOTE YES ON 02-64!

Only you can guarantee the quality of life folks in Benton County have come to enjoy.

The portion of your property taxes Benton County receives has **decreased** three times since 2003. Only 16 cents of each dollar you pay in property taxes goes to Benton County. The remainder goes to schools and other taxing districts like the cities of Corvallis, Philomath, Monroe, Adair Village and Albany. Because measure 02-64 replaces the current jail rental bed levy, its net new cost is 64 cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of your property (not the market value, which is typically higher than assessed value).

#### VOTE YES ON 02-64!

This measure will restore some vital county services and maintain others for the next five years. It will:

- Restore 24 hour sheriff's patrol.
- Provide space to house inmates convicted of crimes in Benton County.
- Continue alcohol and drug treatment for juvenile and adult drug court offenders.
- Assure space for juveniles who must be detained for their safety and ours.
- Restore school resource deputies.
- Resume prosecution of certain crimes.
- Restore juvenile counseling and outreach.
- Help prevent infectious disease outbreaks.
- Provide early intervention to children at risk of abuse, chemical dependency, delinquency and school failure.
- Continue mental health, addiction and children's health services.

We urge you to vote **Yes** on measure 02-64 so that we may continue providing the services you have come to expect from your county government. Without this measure, some services will not be restored and others will be reduced or discontinued.

#### VOTE YES ON 02-64!

*(This information furnished by Benton County Commissioners Jay Dixon, Annabelle Jaramillo, Linda Modrell)*

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

### ARGUMENT FOR

As present and past Sheriffs and District Attorneys, we are making this unprecedented joint statement to explain the serious damage that budget cuts have inflicted on the local criminal justice system.

For the first time in more than 35 years, the Sheriff's Office cannot provide round-the-clock patrols and the District Attorney's Office has stopped prosecuting hundreds of provable cases a year.

The situation is critical.

#### SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Lost 15 deputy sheriff positions since 2000, which is a 19% reduction in staff, while Benton County's population has increased 7%. The losses include:

- 6 patrol deputies.
- 5 out of 6 detectives meaning fewer crimes being successfully investigated and prosecuted. When significant investigations occur (such as homicides) uniformed deputies are pulled from patrol duties to assist.
- 3 school resource deputies and 1 crime prevention deputy resulting in increased vandalism.

#### DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Lost 2 deputy DA's out of 7, leaving the fewest deputies per capita in the state.
- Each deputy handles 500+ cases a year, one of the highest caseloads in the state.
- Murders are no longer rare – the office recently finished 4 murder cases and has 5 more pending, including the murder of Brooke Wilberger.
- With too few deputies and too many major cases, the DA declined more than 500 other cases last year, three times the number declined in 1999.

The county levy is an essential first step to help repair the damage.

We urge a YES vote on Measure #02-64 on November 6, 2007.

This information furnished by:

Diana Simpson Current Sheriff	John Haroldson Current District Attorney
Jim Swinyard Sheriff, 2001-2007	Scott Heiser District Attorney, 1999-2007
Stan Robson Sheriff, 1995-2001	Pete Sandrock District Attorney, 1977-1999
Dave Cook Sheriff, 1989-1995	

*(This information furnished by John Haroldson, District Attorney and Diana Simpson, Sheriff)*

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

# BENTON COUNTY

## Measure 02-64

### ARGUMENT FOR

VOTE YES – BENTON COUNTY LOCAL OPTION LEVY 02-64

As local citizens interested in history and culture, we feel that it is important for the county to continue to provide general fund support for the Benton County Historical Society and Museum that the voters of Benton County have twice approved. The funding promotes the Society's mission: to enrich the human spirit by creating learning opportunities, stimulating imaginations and presenting ideas that recall the past, inform the present and inspire the future.

Now is an important time in the preservation of local history. The Benton County Historical Society has entered into an agreement with OSU to take possession of the Horner collection and is in the process of fundraising and building a Collection Care Facility so that the transfer can occur. Combining the Benton County Historical Society's collection with the Horner collection will result in approximately 120,000 artifacts that will help to interpret the history of Benton County and the region.

"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." (George Santayana, The Life of Reason, 1905-06)

Keep our community strong and enlightened. Although not specifically a part of the levy, county funding for all services risks being reduced without the levy. The History Fund provides historical and cultural education for all ages, attracts grants to our area, supports those learning their family's place in history, and offers cultural facilities for visitors to our area. It allows each of us to better understand the area we live in. Please join us in voting YES on the Benton County levy on November 6.

Alice Rampton  
Corvallis, OR

Rod Harvey  
Philomath, OR

Ann and Bill Smart  
Corvallis, OR

Peter Johnson  
Corvallis, OR

Barbara Hartz  
Philomath, OR

Jo Anne and Cliff Trow  
Corvallis, OR

Ben Danley  
Summit, OR

Peter Barnhisel  
Corvallis, OR

*(This information furnished by Ann Smart)*

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

### ARGUMENT FOR

Our county is a great place to live. It ranks in the top five of many of the traits tracked by the Oregon Progress Board. No wonder so many of us feel fortunate to call this special place home.

But our quality of life is in jeopardy. For years now, balancing the County budget has meant spending reserves, cutting programs and eliminating jobs - 23 of them in the last budget alone.

We're now down to just 15 deputies trying to cover 798 miles of roads. And from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m., there's no patrol at all.

Our District Attorney's office ranks last in the state in prosecutors-to-population. We have too few Deputy DAs handling too many cases. Some cases just aren't getting prosecuted.

Drugs are said to be behind 80% of the crime here. Cure the addiction and you cut the crime. That's what Drug Treatment Court does. It works! It saves taxpayers money! But funding only exists for another year.

The County Health Department's budget was cut \$700,000 this year. Hit hard were programs with long-term consequences, such as infectious disease prevention and child abuse intervention.

The situation is bad, and it will surely get worse, unless we citizens step up now.

That's why Citizens for a Safe & Healthy Benton County urges you to vote YES for Measure 02-64. We're not government employees. We have no financial ties to the county. We're just individuals -- moms, dads and grandparents -- who care about the quality of life here and the future we're making for our children.

Help make Benton County safer and healthier for you, your loved ones, and all of us who calls this special place home. Put your vote where your heart is. Vote YES for Measure 02-64.

John Barlow  
Anne Schuster  
Ann Werner  
Penny York

Julie Manning  
Julie Weiss  
Curtis Wright

*(This information furnished by Citizens for a Safe & Healthy Benton County)*

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

# BENTON COUNTY

## Measure 02-64

### ARGUMENT FOR

VOTE YES – BENTON COUNTY LOCAL OPTION LEVY

As local physicians working to ensure that all county residents receive the care they need, we rely on the Benton County Health Department to play a vitally important role.

In some instances, the Health Department is the county's only provider of these vital services. And while it receives state and federal grants for some services, fully one-quarter of the department's operating budget comes from the county's general fund and is thus at risk when budget cuts must be made. The local option levy you are being asked to consider provides approximately \$5 million annually to support county services including the Health Department, which has faced more than a decade of budget cuts and reductions to programs and staffing.

In addition to its important public health role, the department coordinates a county-wide system of prevention and treatment services for individuals with mental health issues, drug and alcohol addictions, and/or development disabilities.

The Health Department's immunization program provided more than 3,100 child immunizations in 2006 as well as nearly 2,000 immunizations for overseas travelers and 600 flu shots. The county offers a comprehensive maternal/child health program, with nurses making multiple home visits to more than 70 at-risk pregnant women and their infants in 2006 and providing nutritional counseling and food vouchers to more than 1,300 low-income pregnant women and their children. The county also provides health promotion programs in areas including alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention and case management, and disease outbreak response. And, together with local health providers and first responders, the county plays an important role in public health emergency preparedness.

In today's health care climate, where reimbursement is shrinking and needs are growing, we need to work together to help keep our community healthy. Please help us to help you; vote YES on the Benton County levy on November 6.

Kevin Ewanchyna, M.D.  
Mark Rampton, M.D.  
David Cutsforth, M.D.

*(This information furnished by Kevin Ewanchyna)*

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

### ARGUMENT FOR

**Measure 02-64 directly impacts crime in Benton County.**

An adequate level of professional staffing is essential for preventing and addressing crime in Benton County. While the state pays for court personnel, indigent defense counsel and part of the DA's salary, the majority of our local criminal justice system is funded by property tax revenue.

**This measure will restore or continue funding for vital services in the Sheriff's office and the three county departments primarily responsible for providing criminal justice in Benton County.**

This measure continues funding to rent 40 jail beds in other counties because our jail is regularly beyond its legal capacity.

This measure will also restore or continue funding for:

- 24/7 sheriff's patrol and investigation,
- prosecution of street crimes and child abuse,
- the highly successful juvenile and adult drug treatment courts,
- counseling for juvenile offenders,
- one juvenile detention bed, and
- the sorely missed sheriff's deputy school resource program working with students on substance abuse and other prevention activities.

A portion of the Benton County Health Department is also funded by property tax revenues, some of which pay for alcohol and drug addiction prevention and treatment, helping to curb the criminal activity that all too often accompanies these problems.

**Benton County has been a good steward of taxpayer dollars. There has not been a general tax increase since 1998. To maintain a balanced budget, the county has spent reserves, eliminated programs, and cut the equivalent of 23 full-time positions.**

**Please join us in supporting measure 02-64. Restore services vital to our criminal justice system and to the quality of life in Benton County.**

*(This information furnished by Circuit Court Judges  
Locke A. Williams, Janet Schoenhard Holcomb,  
David B. Connell)*

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

# BENTON COUNTY

## Measure 02-64

### ARGUMENT FOR

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis strongly supports the passage of the Benton County Levy. We are especially interested in the funding for the Sheriff's staff, the DA's office, and drug treatment programs.

No matter who you are, you should be concerned about the consequences of substance abuse and drug addiction in our county. Having your home ransacked by an addict desperate to find salable items is a traumatic experience. We are saddened by the damage to children whose parents operate meth labs right in their own homes. As taxpayers, we are frustrated by the costs of incarcerating those convicted of drug related crimes.

To stop this tragic epidemic, the county must fight drugs on three fronts: treatment of addicts, detection of drug dealers, and prosecution of drug related crimes.

Oregon studies have found that for every dollar invested in treatment, we save \$5.60 in law enforcement and judicial system costs. In Benton County we are fortunate to have a highly effective Drug Court program that provides intensive counseling, support, and supervision to nonviolent offenders. Our Health Department provides a range of treatment options to addicted adolescents and adults. These programs are effective in halting the cycle of addiction and criminal behavior, thus keeping participants out of the criminal justice system.

To find drug dealers and shut down meth labs, our sheriff's office needs the six additional officers that this levy would fund. Without additional staff, the sheriff's deputies have no time to follow up on leads that may uncover drug supply networks.

The final step is prosecution by the DA's office. The levy would fund one additional deputy DA to increase the office's capacity to bring drug dealers to justice.

Your vote for the Benton County levy will make us all safer by reducing addiction and drug trafficking in our communities.

*(This information furnished by Barbara Ross for the League of Women Voters of Corvallis)*

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

### ARGUMENT FOR

VOTE "YES" ON THE BENTON COUNTY LOCAL OPTION LEVY

I am asking all Benton County residents to vote "yes" on the five-year local option levy in support of Benton County services.

As a current Corvallis School Board member, I see on a regular basis the necessity and value of Benton County services to our children and families. Benton County provides a "safety net" for general and mental health services, drug and alcohol counseling, and family counseling for abuse. In addition, the Sheriff's department serves as a vital cog in support of law enforcement and legal services in our schools and in our general community.

Learning requires focus and attention. Children cannot learn successfully if they are sick or have problems at home. In addition, it is very difficult to parent children who have health, drug or behavioral problems without the additional support of health, counseling and legal services such as those provided by the County. Those services are increasingly at risk after more than a decade of budget reductions amidst growing need.

Among the services identified to be funded by the local option levy are:

- Restored funding for a school resource deputy, along with additional crime prevention services;
- Three additional juvenile counselors and outreach specialists;
- Detention space for one juvenile offender;
- Support for the teen Drug Treatment Court (a proven model of effective intervention and treatment);
- Children's health, mental health and addiction services.

As taxpayers, we need to make sure that financial support for our schools and our community is used wisely. Assuring adequate funding for Benton County is necessary for healthy and safe families. I urge you to vote YES for the Benton County local option levy.

Bill TenPas, D.M.D.

*(This information furnished by William S. TenPas)*

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



## BENTON COUNTY

### Measure 02-64

#### ARGUMENT AGAINST

##### **Benton County has many places to cut spending; new taxes are unnecessary**

Total spending by Benton County bureaucrats skyrocketed to new heights in the last 11 fiscal years. Total spending was \$32 million in the 1993/1994 fiscal year and \$65 million in 2004/2005. Only \$51 million would have been spent in 2004/2005 if growth were proportionate to the following reasonable benchmarks:

- Benton County population growth
- State and Local Government Employee Salary Index U.S. Dept. of Labor
- State and Local Government Employee Benefits Index U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Consumer Price Index (for material and service purchases) U.S. Dept. of Labor

Most of the **\$14 million excess spending** from 1993/1994 to 2004/2005 relates to **three Departments**.

- **Health** Dept. grew from \$8.7 to \$25.4 million – 191% growth
- **Juvenile** Dept. grew from \$0.6 to \$1.7 million – 183% growth
- **Law Enforcement** grew from \$4.4 to \$9.2 million – 109% growth
- All other Dept. grew from \$18.5 to \$28.8 million – 56% growth

Benton County management has been particularly ineffective in controlling employee benefits. Nationally, state and local governments pay an additional 27% of employee salaries for employee benefits. While Benton County employee salaries are similar to national averages, Benton County taxpayers pay **48% of employee salaries** for the rich benefits received by employees. **If Benton County paid 27%, spending on benefits would have been \$3.3 million less in the 2004/2005 year.**

**Benton County employees do not pay the 6% PERS premium** intended for employees; instead this is a "pick-up" by the County that is billed to taxpayers. **This cost taxpayers \$1 million** in the 04/05 year.

Excess spending in budget plans for the 2005/2007 biennium accelerated even more than prior years. Spending cuts discussed in budget plans for the 2007/2009 biennium are insufficient. There should be further spending cuts, not tax increases.

Vote No on Measure 02-64.

*(This information furnished by Benton Citizens for Prudent Economy)*

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

# CITY OF MONROE

## Measure 02-63

### BALLOT TITLE

**CAPTION:** CITY OF MONROE WASTEWATER SYSTEM  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AUTHORIZATION

**QUESTION:** Shall the City of Monroe issue up to \$1,000,000.00 in general obligation bonds to construct improvements to its wastewater system? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of Section 11 and 11b of Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**SUMMARY:** The measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout. Approval of this measure will permit the City to issue up to \$1,000,000.00 in general obligation bonds to finance the costs of capital construction and improvements related to the City's sewer system, including the acquisition of fifteen (15) acres of land, the construction of two (2) new lagoons, a new pump station and the pipes that will go across the Long Tom River to the new lagoons.

The bonds will mature in twenty one (21) years or less from date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series.

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Approval of this measure by the voters would allow the City of Monroe to issue up to \$1,000,000.00 in general obligation bonds to finance costs of capital construction and improvements related to a new wastewater system. The estimated tax rate would be \$3.28 each \$1,000.00 assessed property value. The bonds would be paid off with a time period not to exceed 21 years, from taxes on property within the City of Monroe.

The City Council has referred this measure to the voters based upon conditions and requirements established by the Oregon Health Department's (OHD), Drinking Water Program, the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996.

This bond measure allows the City to work in cooperation with the DEQ and OECDD (Oregon Economic Community Development Department) Wastewater Grant and loan to improve the wastewater system that was constructed some 40 years ago and is placing the City in violation by passing wastewater into the Long Tom River and meeting the needs for next generations. Such bonds will secure the City's portion of the 50-50 matching grant. As part of the project the bonds will pay for the \$1,000,000.00 loan of the 50-50 Grant-Loan total \$2,000,000.00 project.

The construction project calls for improvements of the current wastewater system. These improvements include acquisition of fifteen (15) acres of land, the construction of two (2) new lagoons, a new pump station and the pipe that will go across the Long Tom River to the new lagoons.

*(Submitted by the City of Monroe)*

## CITY OF MONROE

### Measure 02-63

#### ARGUMENT FOR

The citizens of Monroe are offered a simple choice in paying for the state and Federal mandated improvements to our current sewer system. The current and future sewer users can pay for the improvements with doubled sewer rates or the cost can be spread across all the property within the City with a million dollar general obligation bond.

Monthly sewer rates to pay for the system improvements could increase by \$30 or more above your current sewer charge. An average sewer user could expect to see their annual sewer cost increase by about \$360 or more per year. Sewer rates would not go down in the future.

Your other choice is the general obligation bond which would cost about \$3.28 per \$1000 assessed value for a yearly cost of \$328 for a \$100,000 home. When the General Obligation Bond is paid off, the annual charge goes off your tax bill. This charge would be on your annual tax bill.

We encourage you to support this bond measure as the best way to fairly spread the cost of the mandated sewer improvements.

*(This information furnished by John T. Dillard, Committee Chair of the Monroe GO Bond Committee)*

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

# HARRISBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT # 7

## Measure 22-73

### BALLOT TITLE

**CAPTION:** HARRISBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AUTHORIZATION

**QUESTION:** Shall Harrisburg School District No. 7 be authorized to issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$14,950,000. If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**SUMMARY:** This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50-percent voter turnout. Passage of this measure would provide funds for capital construction and improvements and bond issuance costs. Specifically, this measure is expected to provide funds to:

- Construct, Expand and Improve District Middle School Facilities;
- Renovate, Improve and Upgrade District Elementary Facilities;
- Upgrade, Expand and Improve District High School Facilities;
- Site Improvements including parking, sidewalks and related construction; and
- Pay fees associated with issuing the bonds.

The Bonds would mature in twenty-five (25) years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series.

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**This bond measure would fund projected classroom and facilities requirements district-wide for more than ten years.**

If approved by the voters, this bond measure would increase the capacity of the District to accommodate rapid enrollment growth by constructing a new middle school and renovating and building additional classrooms in existing school buildings.

The District has grown by 185 students in the last four years with 65% of the districts growth in K-8 classrooms.\* The enrollment growth has averaged 6% - 7% annually and the current growth pattern predicts a continued increase in student enrollment.\*\*

**Harrisburg School District would:**

- **Build a new middle school** that will provide space for 300-350 middle school *(Continued in the next column)*

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT *(continued)*

students on district-owned property, located adjacent to the high school. The school will include computer lab space and science classrooms.

- **Renovate, improve, upgrade Harrisburg Elementary School**, renovating the existing combined elementary and middle school facility to accommodate teaching and learning at the elementary level and improve the safety and security of elementary students. Upon completion the facility would be used solely for elementary students and would allow the District to keep elementary and middle school students in separate facilities.
- **Expand, upgrade, improve Harrisburg High School**, adding additional classrooms, additional lunchroom space, and making related site improvements. These additional classrooms will accommodate growth and relieve over crowding at the high school.
- **Provide funds for associated costs**, site improvements including parking, sidewalk and related construction as well as paying fees associated with issuing the bonds.

**Bond proceeds can only be used for bond projects**

This bond issue's principal amount cannot exceed \$14.95 million dollars. Bond proceeds can only be used for costs associated with building the projects listed on this ballot. For example, the District could **not** use bond funds to hire more staff, raise salaries, or purchase land for future school sites. If voters approve the measure, use of bond funds for the aforementioned purposes would be prohibited.

**Bond Costs**

The total cost of this bond is \$14.95 million. Resources generated through the sale of District property and earned interest help supplement the total project cost of \$15.5 million.

The estimated incremental cost increase to property owners in property taxes during the first year would be approximately \$2.06 per \$1,000 of assessed value per year. For a home with an assessed value of \$150,000, the initial tax increase in 2009 is \$309 per year (\$25.75 per month). This tax increase will rise annually and will stabilize by 2020 to \$439.50 per year (\$36.63 per month). \*\*\* The length of the payment period will not exceed 25 years.

New residents in the District will help lower the taxes as the market value in the District increases and taxes are uniformly spread among all taxpayers. \*\*\*\*

Information sources:

\* Enrollment Records, Harrisburg School District

\*\* Population Forecast, ECO Northwest

\*\*\* Seattle-Northwest Securities Corporation

\*\*\*\* Anne Sherman, Bond Counsel

*(Information furnished by Ron Worrell, Harrisburg School District Superintendent)*

**NO ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST  
THIS MEASURE WERE FILED**

# PALESTINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Measure 02-62

### BALLOT TITLE

**CAPTION:** MEASURE PROPOSING A FIVE-YEAR OPERATING LOCAL OPTION TAX LEVY

**QUESTION:** Shall District impose \$.9007 per \$1000 of assessed value for five years beginning in 2008-2009 for fire protection?

**SUMMARY:** This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout.

Palestine Rural Fire Protection District's financial resources have been rapidly depleting in the last couple of years due to an increase in the cost of fire protection service. Therefore, it is necessary to request a five-year operating local option tax levy of \$.9007 per \$1,000 of assessed value to finance the operations of the District beginning in tax year 2008-2009. The estimated tax raised by year would be \$58,940 for 2008-2009, \$61,299 for 2009-2010, \$63,750 for 2010-2011, \$66,301 for 2011-2012, \$68,953 for 2012-2013 for a total of \$319,243 over 5 years. 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 the estimate.

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This measure will establish a temporary operating tax to help finance the operations of Palestine Rural Fire Protection District. If this measure passes, the District will impose a tax of \$.9007 per \$1,000 of assessed value within the District for the next five years beginning in 2008-2009. The operating tax rate will be in addition to the permanent rate limit of \$1.2493 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Board Members:

Roger Biegel  
Wayne Henneck  
J. David Adams  
Christine A. Franke  
Nicholas Fowler

*(Submitted by Palestine Rural Fire District Board)*

NO ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST  
THIS MEASURE WERE FILED

## VOTER REGISTRATION, BALLOT INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

### VOTER REGISTRATION AND BALLOT INFORMATION

**Who is qualified to vote:** In order to receive a ballot, voters must be registered to vote in their county of residence no later than 21 days prior to the election. However, if a registered voter moves within the State of Oregon, that voter can update his/her voter registration information and receive a ballot up until **8:00 PM on Election Day, which is November 6, 2007.**

**Absentee Ballots:** It is against the law to have anyone forward a ballot to you. Even the United States Postal Service will not forward a ballot. If you will be out of the area during the election period and would like receive a ballot, contact our office and request that an "Absentee Ballot" be sent directly to you.

**If you lose your ballot or make a mistake while voting it:** If your ballot is lost, destroyed, damaged, or you made a mistake in marking your ballot, you may contact the Benton County Elections Office to request a replacement ballot. The replacement ballot will be mailed to you, as long as your request is received no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day before Election Day. After the 5<sup>th</sup> day before the election, you may pick up a ballot by coming to the Benton County Elections Office.

If you have already mailed your original ballot before you realize you made a mistake, your ballot has been cast, and you are not eligible for a replacement ballot.

**In order for your ballot to be counted** it must be returned to any elections office or official ballot drop site in the State of Oregon, **no later than 8:00 PM Election Day, November 6, 2007.**

#### Postmarks DO NOT count!

Ballots must be returned enclosed in the official ballot return envelope and **signed by the voter** in order to be counted. Even people with Power of Attorney do not have authority to sign another person's ballot.

Use a **PEN OR PENCIL** to vote your ballot.

If you have other questions about voter registration, your ballot, or voting in Benton County you are encouraged to call 541 766-6756.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Benton County Elections Website

The website is an excellent source of information concerning voter registration, absentee voting, frequently asked questions, and links to other local, state, and federal election officials. You will also find election specific information such as election filings, results, voter turnout and this voters' pamphlet on our website [www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections](http://www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections).

#### Voters with Disabilities

If you need help voting because of a disability, contact the Benton County Elections Office. Deputized elections staff is available to assist you in casting a ballot; or ask about alternate voting formats.

#### Benton County Elections Office

Phone: 541 766-6756  
TTY: 541 766-6080  
Fax: 541 766-6757  
Website: [www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections](http://www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections)  
Email: [bcelections@co.benton.or.us](mailto:bcelections@co.benton.or.us)

#### State of Oregon

Phone: 1 866 673-8683  
Website: [www.oregonvotes.org](http://www.oregonvotes.org)  
Se Habla Español

#### Información en Español

Para mas información sobre las elecciones en el condado de Benton

llame al: 541 766-6756  
TTY: 541 766-6080  
limitaciones auditivas  
o al numero gratis: 1 866 673-8683

Condado: [www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections](http://www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections)  
Estado: [www.oregonvotes.org](http://www.oregonvotes.org)

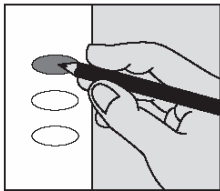
Se Habla Español

# CHECK YOUR BALLOT AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HOW TO CAST YOUR BALLOT

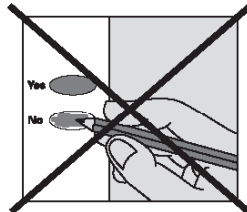
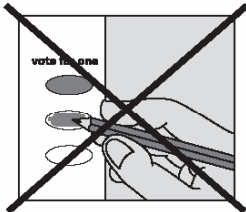
### check your ballot!

Use a pen or pencil to fill 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 Benton County Elections to request a replacement ballot if:

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

### **Benton County Elections**

Phone: (541) 766-6756  
Fax: (541) 766-6757  
TTY: (541) 766-6080  
Email: [bcelections@co.benton.or.us](mailto:bcelections@co.benton.or.us)

**1 866 ORE VOTE / 673 8683**  
**Se Habla Español**  
[www.oregonvotes.org](http://www.oregonvotes.org)

rev 9/04

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. What do I do when a ballot for someone else is delivered to my home?**

A. It is important that you **DO NOT THROW THE BALLOT AWAY**. Write on the envelope that the person is no longer at that address and **PUT IT BACK INTO THE MAIL**. Postage is not needed. Once our office has received the undeliverable ballot you will stop receiving them.

**Q. I forgot to put my ballot in the secrecy envelope. Will you count my ballot?**

A. Yes. We recommend that voters use the secrecy envelope. You can open the ballot return envelope, place your ballot in the secrecy envelope and reseal it. Write "Opened By Voter" along the portion that you opened and sign your full name there as well. That way we will know that the voter was the one who opened the ballot and can count it. However, if your ballot comes back without a secrecy envelope, it will still be counted.

**Q. How do you know I am the one who voted my ballot?**

A. The signature on EACH ballot return envelope is verified. Elections staff compares the signature on your ballot return envelope with the signature on your Voter Registration Card. If the signatures do not match we will contact you to help us resolve the issue. **Remember:** Even a person with a Power of Attorney cannot sign your ballot. Only you can.

**Q. When do election results become available and how can I find out what they are?**

A. Election results are available on the Benton County Elections website at: [www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections](http://www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections). First results become available between 8:20 PM and 9:00 PM on Election Night. Further results will be added as ballots are received and tallied. All ballots cast within Benton County will be counted and the results posted before the election staff leaves Election Night. However, ballots returned in other counties must be sent to Benton County for later tally and the election cannot be certified until all voters whose ballots were challenged have had an opportunity to respond to those challenges.

**Benton County  
VOTERS' PAMPHLET  
Special Election  
November 6, 2007**

Elections Office Open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM Election Day

PUBLISHED BY THE  
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Election Questions?  
Benton County Elections Office  
Phone: (541) 766-6756  
TTY: (541) 766-6080  
Fax: (541) 766-6757

Website: [www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections](http://www.co.benton.or.us/admin/elections)

Email: [bcelections@co.benton.or.us](mailto:bcelections@co.benton.or.us)