

## MEASURE NO. 24-09: City of Salem

*Referred to the Voters by the City Council*

### Three-Year Local Option Tax Levy Authorization

**QUESTION:** Shall City be authorized to levy local option taxes at \$0.7344 per \$1,000 assessed value for operations beginning 1998-99? The proposed taxes are to be imposed over a period of three years. 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.

Authorizes three-year serial levy of ad valorem property taxes, which would be expended for City of Salem operations including but not limited to: current general fund services, restored library services, maintenance of Riverfront Park and new parks, additional police officers for traffic enforcement, and services in the municipal court, legal and finance departments related to additional police officers. The estimate of the total amount of money to be raised for each year of the proposed local option tax is \$3,875,940 in 1998-99; \$4,030,975 in 1999-00 and \$4,192,215 in 2000-01. The estimated three-year total is \$12,099,130. The tax levy is subject to the other governmental purposes limit of section 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

---

### Explanatory Statement:

#### Three-Year Local Option Tax Levy Authorization

Ballot Measure No. 24-09 would authorize the City to levy a local option property tax of \$0.7344 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for three years in addition to its existing permanent rate levy. The proposed levy would be used through fiscal year (FY) 2000-01 to:

- avoid reducing current programs, including police, fire, library, parks maintenance, recreation, community development and other services that support these programs;
- restore library services;
- add police officers; and,
- maintain some new parks.

The City's Five Year Forecast projects that the City faces a General Fund shortfall of approximately \$3.8 million per year by FY 1999-2000. At least 70% of the proposed levy would be used to maintain current services.

The proposed levy amount would also include funds to restore library services that were reduced or eliminated with the passage of Measures 47 and 50. These would include:

- hours at the main Library branch;
- hours at the West Salem branch;
- bookmobile service;
- services to youth;
- book and other collections budgets; and
- senior/social service "bookshelf libraries."

The proposed levy also includes funds for five additional police officers to concentrate on traffic enforcement and for related support services in the Court, Legal and Finance Departments.

Two parks maintenance programs are included in the levy. Part of the levy would pay for maintaining new neighborhood parks in Salem neighborhoods not currently served; which would be built using Systems Development Charge funds dedicated solely to park acquisition and construction. The levy also sets aside funds to maintain the final phase of Riverfront Park when it becomes developed, which is planned to occur in FY 2000-01.

The levy amount that would be collected is estimated to be \$3,875,940 in FY 1999-99; \$4,030,975 in FY 1999-2000; and, \$4,192,215 in 2000-2001, for a total of \$12,099,130. The estimated cost to a taxpayer owning a property valued at \$100,000 would be an additional \$73.44 in taxes per year.

Any remaining levy proceeds may be used for City operations.

Submitted by  
Mike Swaim, Mayor  
on behalf of the Salem City Council

---

**Arguments in Favor:**

POLICE·LIBRARY·PARKS

VOTE FOR SALEM: IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK!

To All Registered Voters in Salem:

We need to pull together to support the quality of life we have in our city. By voting for this measure, funds will be available to continue the current level - as well as build upon - the services which touch our lives and those of our children.

THIS MEASURE REQUIRES THAT AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS IN SALEM SUBMIT THEIR BALLOT FOR IT TO EVEN BE CONSIDERED. That means that your vote is even more important - yes or no - it's critical that you vote!

But, of course, we urge you to vote YES because of what the funds will do for Salem residents. Here's what we'll get for our money:

**VOTE SAFETY!** Adds five Police Officers to increase traffic enforcement in such areas as speeding, driving under the influence, running red lights, and other traffic offenses.

**VOTE SMART!** Restores previously cut Library Services including restoring 11 hours/week at the main Library and 10 hours/week at the West Salem Library, restoring the bookmobile to three days/week, and restoring services to children and young adults.

**VOTE FUN!** Maintains several new Neighborhood Parks in high growth areas that have already been paid for with system development charges.

Maintains Salem's Riverfront Park providing many opportunities for community events.

**VOTE QUALITY!** Maintains all current levels of City Services including police, libraries, parks, and fire.

Think about it! Vote for Salem! It's not too much to ask...

"Vote for Salem" Committee Co-Chairs

Mike Swaim     Ken Sherman Jr.

(This information provided by Save Our Library Committee)

---

AN OPEN LETTER TO SALEM VOTERS:

On September 15th, Salem voters are being asked to approve a \$4 million levy designed to restore library services to its 1996-97 level, fund five additional police officers and maintenance for several new parks, plus the Riverfront. This would be effective for the remainder of the current budget year and the ensuing two years.

Passage of this levy will restore library hours, books, youth programs, the bookmobile and other services which were cut last year. Failure would mean the effective destruction of the Salem Public Library as we know it.

Our library has long been one of Salem's most cherished community assets. It ranks in the top five percent of all U.S. libraries in usage and efficiency. In 1997, when the consequences of Measure 47 and 50 began to kick in, our library was one of the most deeply affected of all city departments. This year, unless the levy passes, the library will be slated for further cuts in hours and programs.

We who love the library hold its future in our hands. This is a call for action for everyone that cares about the quality of life in our city to get out and Vote for Salem. It's not too much to ask!

Submitted by the Chairs of "Save our Library" committee.

Sue Morrison    Ned Clark    David Crockatt

(This information provided by the Chairs of  
"Save our Library" committee.)

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Marion County nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.*

No arguments opposed to this measure were filed.

---

## **MEASURE NO. 24-10: City of Salem**

*Referred to the Voters by the City Council*

### **General Obligation Public Safety Bond Authorization**

**QUESTION:** Shall City be authorized to contract general obligation bonded indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$22,535,000? 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.

Bonds would finance public safety capital construction and improvements including but not limited to: relocating, rebuilding, expanding, renovating, and seismically upgrading fire stations; the acquisition of fire department apparatus and public safety equipment; the acquisition of land and site improvements for public safety facilities; a 9-1-1 communication and emergency operations center; an 800 MHZ emergency radio communications system; an additional fire station to the current nine (9) station system; related public safety improvements and bond issuance costs. The bonds would mature in not more than 15 years.

---

### **Explanatory Statement:**

Ballot Measure No. 24-10 would permit the City to sell up to \$22,535,000 of general obligation bonds to finance fire, police, and 9-1-1 Center emergency capital construction projects and improvements, including, but not limited to:

- relocating, rebuilding, expanding, renovating and seismically upgrading fire stations;
- acquiring fire department vehicles and related public safety equipment;
- acquiring land and making site improvements for public safety facilities;
- relocating the 9-1-1 communication and emergency operations center;
- developing an integrated 800 megahertz emergency radio communications system;
- adding a new fire station to the current nine station system; and
- financing related public safety improvements and bond issuance costs. A 1996 engineering study indicates that most Salem fire stations, which house Salem's fire engines and ambulances, are not expected to be usable after an earthquake of any consequence. The current 9-1-1 center, located in the basement of City Hall, also is not expected to withstand an earthquake and has inadequate space.

Salem's fire stations were built to serve Salem's configuration of over 25-years ago when the area to be served was 27.767 square miles instead of the 46.372 square miles currently being served. Relocating some stations would enable the City to better meet the Council's adopted four-minute emergency response standard.

Currently, there are many communication dead spots throughout the City and some buildings where emergency communications between public safety personnel are impaired. A new unified system would be designed to alleviate the communication gaps. Primary users of the system would be police and fire emergency personnel and it would enable them to communicate better with each other during an emergency and with the 9-1-1 dispatchers.

Any remaining bond proceeds may be used for additional public safety capital construction and improvements. The bonds would mature over 15 years. The approximate tax rate impact is estimated at \$.44 per thousand in assessed valuation in FY 1999-2000 and less, thereafter. For example, in FY 1999-2000 a taxpayer owning property valued at \$100,000 would pay an additional \$44.00 in taxes per year. The estimated rate for this measure is based on the best information available at this time.

Submitted by  
Mike Swaim, Mayor  
on behalf of the Salem City Council

---

Arguments in Favor:

Argument in Favor:

Measure 24-10

Salem Fire Fighters and Paramedics want you to know why it is important to VOTE YES ON 24-10. Our job is to keep you safe and our ability to do that well is on the line. Measure 24-10 will dramatically improve your safety. Here's why:

#### RESPONSE TIME

The Salem City Council adopted the recognized national standard of a four-minute driving response time to be met by emergency crews 85% of the time. To meet that standard, fire station relocations and additions are needed.

Scientific research shows that when a person's breathing or heartbeat has stopped, irreversible brain damage occurs after four to six minutes without resuscitation. Survival rates plummet when response is delayed. The same holds true when your home catches fire. A fire doubles in size every minute. A flashover - the moment at which all the contents of a room ignite - occurs within four minutes after burning begins. To prevent this from happening, quick response time is critical.

#### EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Many of Salem's existing stations are not built to survive even a modest earthquake. It's likely that in the event of a quake, stations will collapse, burying both firefighters and the specialized equipment needed to assist you in such an emergency.

Salem emergency personnel ask you to help us dramatically improve your family's safety. Your YES vote on Measure 24-10 will renovate, rebuild, and relocate stations, improving response time and reducing coverage overlap so services are delivered more cost-efficiently.

What will it cost? The bond will cost a maximum of \$44.00 per year (or \$3.67 per month) based on a \$100,000 home. Similar public safety investments are underway in Albany, Tualitan Valley, and Eugene, as citizens of these communities recognize the need to upgrade their stations too.

Please join your friends, neighbors, relatives and fellow taxpayers - Salem's Fire Fighters and Paramedics - in voting YES ON PUBLIC SAFETY ... YES ON MEASURE 24-10.

Your Salem Fire Fighters & Paramedics

(This information provided by Your Salem Fire Fighters & Paramedics)

---

Dear Voters:

Although we ran against each other in the recent Mayoral election, we both firmly agree that Salem urgently needs to pass the Public Safety Bond Measure 24-10, in September. Here's what Measure 24-10 will give us for our money:

1. Structural reinforcement of our fire and ambulance stations, so they won't collapse during a moderate-to-major earthquake and be unable to respond to the emergency.
2. A new "911" center to handle our emergency calls. Our present 911 Center is located in the basement of city hall. Earthquake experts advise that in a moderate-to-major earthquake the 911 center will be buried in a pile of rubble, unable to function just when we need it most.
3. A new emergency communications system that will allow our police and fire personnel to communicate with each other, regardless of where they are in the city. The current radio system is now failing emergency personnel during life and death situations.
4. We won't have to pay any higher taxes for bonds than we paid last year, because older bonded debt will be paid off as we start paying on this bond measure.

We must have at least a 50% turnout and a majority favoring the Bond Measure if we hope to protect ourselves against future catastrophe. Please mark your mail-in ballot "YES" for Measure 24-10, the Public Safety Bond Measure. This is no time for "politics as usual". This is about the safety and well-being of our families.

Sincerely,

Mike Swaim

Ken Sherman, Jr.

(This information provided by Mike Swaim and Ken Sherman, Jr.)

---

July 15, 1998

TO SALEM, OREGON VOTERS:

Who doesn't feel more secure when public service officials are properly equipped and at-the-ready for whatever emergency may occur?

To insure that Salem continues to be a place where families can safely grow and prosper, it is important that our city's foundations remain strong. Public Safety is a cornerstone of any community.

Engineering studies have determined that in the event of even a moderate earthquake, Salem's fire stations and 911 dispatch center could be reduced to rubble. The goal of this measure, if passed, is to assure citizens that our fire stations and 911 emergency services will withstand even a major earthquake. Should the Salem voters have the vision to pass this measure, perhaps it will save your life or that of your child or other loved one. Make no mistake, our public service people see life and death situations each and every day.

We have the opportunity to pass a measure that will directly effect improved response for everyday emergencies by renovating, relocating and adding much needed additional stations to better serve Salem.

Communications between fire fighters, police officers and 911 personnel will also be improved by voting YES. Currently our fire fighters and police officers do not have the sometimes crucial ability to communicate directly with each other at an emergency scene via radio. Further, there are gaps in our community where radio communications for public safety employees is not possible. This endangers not only those in the public safety sector, but the people of our community for which they admirably serve.

Please join me in voting YES for public safety on the September 15th ballot. It's important.

Gerry Frank

(This information provided by Gerry Frank)

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Marion County nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.*

No arguments opposed to this measure were filed.