

AUG 03 2024

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE Elections Division
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLETMeasure No. 24-504Election Date: November 5, 2024**Background**

First constructed in 1948, Woodburn's original outdoor pool was rebuilt into the current Woodburn Aquatic Center in 1995. The Aquatic Center offers swimming and exercise facilities which have been well used by residents. As Woodburn's population and needs expand, it has become clear that the aging facility, along with neighboring Settlemier Park, falls short of meeting the community's growing needs – including for accessibility requirements.

Woodburn has been exploring the idea of building a new Community Center since 2008. In response to the recommendation of the Citizens Advisory Committee and community feedback, the City Council is moving forward with the project now. \$15 million in matching funds were successfully secured from the state, however, they will only be available if the project is fully funded by Spring 2025.

Use of Funds

The Community Center project was developed with the goal of expanding access to recreational, health, and wellness programming for people of all ages and abilities, and providing a large gathering space that is currently lacking in Woodburn's diverse community. The expansion is expected to include:

- An event space and a community multi-purpose room with a commercial kitchen to host large events
- A drop-in childcare center for people using the facility and space for after school and summer programming
- ADA accessibility upgrades to the Center and Settlemier Park
- A two-court gymnasium for youth and adult sports leagues including basketball, pickleball, volleyball and other court sports
- The addition of a warm-water pool that would be more accessible for seniors and people with disabilities and available for family recreation, swim lessons, therapy and exercise classes
- Repairs and improvements to the existing lap pool
- Weights, cardio and exercise facilities that will provide expanded health and wellness opportunities including fitness, cardio and weight equipment, and class space
- An indoor walking and jogging track that can be used year-round for youth and adult fitness programs and exercise
- A new universally inclusive playground in Settlemier Park, tennis courts, outdoor sports courts, a picnic shelter, and pathways

The bond would increase accessibility to ensure people with disabilities and seniors can better access Settlemier Park and the Center. It would also allow for expanded programming opportunities, from swim lessons for kids to learn water safety skills, to after school and summer programs for youth and teens to continue learning, and activities to keep seniors engaged. A drop-in childcare center is also expected to be available for people using the facility.

Cost

If passed, the estimated annual tax rate is approximately \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$15 per month for the average homeowner in Woodburn. In most cases, assessed value is lower than market value. If the measure does not pass, the community center would not be constructed and taxes would not increase.

Accountability

The bond would require annual audits and an oversight committee that will ensure proceeds are used for intended purposes.

Total Words 477 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Signature Redacted

Authorized Signature _____ Title City Recorder

Printed Name Heather Pierson

Local Government Unit City of Woodburn

Fs2/g:Explanatory statement form (3-22)