

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Marion County Clerk

Measure No. _____

MAR 14 2025

Election Date: May 20, 2025

29-511

Elections Division

The City of Stayton is seeking a five-year local option tax of \$0.56 per \$1,000 of assessed value starting in Fiscal Year 2026-27 to continue supporting the Stayton Public Library. This proposed tax would replace the current five-year local option tax approved in 2021, which expires on June 30, 2026.

Historically, the City funded the library through tax levies that also supported other services such as parks and the pool. In May 2021, the City introduced a dedicated library-only levy to ensure stable funding for the library's operations.

The new levy would fund continued operations at the Stayton Public Library. If approved, the levy will allow the library to sustain its current operating hours, staffing levels, and services. It will also ensure the continuation of key programs for all ages, outreach to local schools, summer reading programs, computer and Wi-Fi access, and keeping the library's book collection current.

If a levy does not pass, the library will not be able to operate as it does currently. Without levy funding, the City will likely need to decrease hours, cut staff, and perhaps even close the library.

Due to property tax limitations established by statewide Measures 47 and 50 in the 1990s, the City is unable to increase its permanent property tax rate. As a result, the City relies on voter-approved local option tax levies to support its operating budget. The primary source of revenue for the library is the local operating levy.

Stayton's first local option tax for the support of the library, pool, and parks was approved by voters in November 1998. Additional local option tax measures were passed in May 2002, May 2004, May 2008, May 2012, and May 2016. In May 2021, the levies were separated to provide dedicated funding for the library. The pool and parks levy is separate and will likely be addressed at a future election.

The proposed tax rate of \$0.56 per \$1,000 of assessed value would result in an estimated annual fee of \$141.12, or \$11.67 monthly, based on the average assessed home value of \$252,000, as determined by the Marion County Assessor's office. It's important to note that the assessed value is not the same as the market value of a home.

Since this is an increase in an existing operating levy, the estimated increase in the annual fee for the average homeowner would be \$40.32 annually, or \$3.36 per month. The proposed levy renewal is expected to raise approximately \$2,665,533 over the five-year period for the continued operation of the library, with an allowance for uncollected taxes.

Total Words 426 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Signature Redacted

Authorized Signature _____ Title City Manager

Printed Name Julia H. _____

Local Government Unit City of Stayton