

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 21-02-09-07

In the Matter of REFERRING A FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY TO THE VOTERS TO SUPPORT 4-H AND OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY (OSU) EXTENSION PROGRAMS IN LANE COUNTY AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY CLERK TO PLACE SUCH QUESTION ONTO THE MAY 18, 2021 ELECTION.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has been asked by the OSU Extension Service to place a revenue question onto the May, 2021 ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners held public comment on December 15, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lane County OSU Extension Office has existed in Lane County since 1911; and

**WHEREAS**, Lane County historically provided funding to the OSU Extension Service from expenditures authorized for the discretionary General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, Lane County eliminated operational support to the OSU Extension Service in 2010 and has not included it in its budget since that time.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. That County Counsel forward the proposed ballot language, attached hereto as Exhibit A to the County Clerk for review and Placement on the May 18, 2021 election for the purposes of providing revenue support to the OSU Extension Service in Lane County; and
2. If the measure passes, that the Administrator direct appropriate staff to budget and account for all revenue collected within a special revenue fund in order to ensure the use of such revenue for the specific purposes described herein and in the ballot measure; and
3. If the measure passes, that the County enters into a five-year Intergovernmental Agreement with the OSU Extension Service to ensure all levy revenue, less a one-time cost to be determined, not to exceed \$28,000 to hold back for election related expenses and annual cost allocation charges based upon services used, is transferred to the Lane County Extension office for the purposes of providing:
  - a. Expand existing 4-H and other positive youth development opportunities to rural communities
  - b. Continue volunteer programs such as Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver, Compost and Pruning Specialist, Food Pantry, and Master Woodland Manager

- c. Develop and offer educational programs focused on community emergency preparedness
- d. Continue to provide food safety and preservation, nutrition, and wellness education
- e. Continue to provide technical assistance to farmers, woodland owners and nursery growers
- f. Expand educational programming to all communities that encourages high school completion and college access.
- g. An annual report to the Board of Commissioners outlining the services provided with levy-generated dollars

**ADOPTED** this 9th day of February, 2021.

  
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Joe Berney, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENT A

**Proposed Measure Language for Local Option Tax Supporting OSU Extension Programs in Lane County  
For May 2021**

**Caption:** (10 word limit)

Supporting 4-H and OSU Extension Programs in Lane County

*(9 words as drafted)*

**Question:** (20 word limit)

Shall County support 4-H/Extension with 5-year local option for operations and capital; 2.8 cents per \$1000 assessed value; beginning 2021-22? *This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.*

*(20 words as drafted. Last sentence required but not included in word count per ORS 280.070(4)(b).)*

**Summary:** (175 word limit)

If approved, Lane County would establish a dedicated local option tax supporting Extension Service programs in Lane County. A property assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5.60 per year. Purpose is to:

- Expand existing 4-H and other positive youth development opportunities to rural communities
- Continue volunteer programs such as Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver, Compost and Pruning Specialist, Food Pantry, and Master Woodland Manager
- Develop and offer educational programs focused on community emergency preparedness
- Continue to provide food safety and preservation, nutrition, and wellness education
- Continue to provide technical assistance to farmers, woodland owners and nursery growers
- Expand educational programming to all communities that encourages high school completion and college access

Oregon State University, through state and federal funds, provides the majority of funding for Extension experts in Lane County. Approximately 340 volunteers extend their efforts. Program fees, grants and contracts cover part of the costs of local programs and services. This local option tax would continue and expand existing programming, provide additional opportunities for 4-H youth, support volunteer programs, and secure local Extension education positions.

*The proposed rate will raise approximately \$1,051,706 in 2021, \$1,034,090 in 2022, \$1,016,769 in 2023, \$1,052,356 in 2024, and \$1,089,188 in 2025 for a total of \$5,244,109. 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 estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate. (175 words as drafted, including bullets. Last two sentences required but not included in word count per ORS 280.075(1) and (2).)*