

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 16-02-02-03

IN THE MATTER OF

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 17, 2016 ELECTION.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has been asked by the OSU Extension Service to place a revenue question onto the May, 2016 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the issue on January 12, 2016; 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's discretionary budget has been dramatically reduced due to changes in federal land management policies; 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 17, 2016 election for the purposes of providing revenue support to the OSU Extension Service in Lane County; and
2. That County Counsel forward the voters pamphlet explanatory statement, attached hereto as Exhibit B to the County Clerk for review and placement into the voter pamphlet produced for the May 17, 2016 election; and
3. 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
4. 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 \$8,500 hold back for election related expense and annual cost

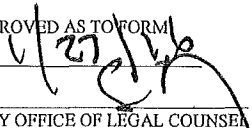
allocation charges based upon services used, is transferred to the Lane County OSU Extension office for the purposes of providing:

- a. Two additional faculty members from OSU placed in Lane County.
- b. Up to 25% reduction in 4-H enrollment costs.
- c. Provision of in-school and after-school 4-H programs.
- d. Maintenance of current public access to Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver programming.
- e. Increase services to Lane County residents for Small Farms and Livestock/Forages programming.
- f. New programming for Lane County residents around woodland and natural resource management.
- g. Expansion of the role of the Commercial Agriculture agent to provide assistance for orchard and field crops and to address food systems infrastructure issues.
- h. An annual report to the Board of Commissioners outlining the services provided with levy-generated dollars.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2015.



Faye Stewart, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 1/27/16


LANE COUNTY OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

**Proposed Measure Language for Local Option Tax Supporting OSU Extension Programs in Lane County
For May 2016 Ballot**

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; 1.5 cents per \$1000 assessed value; beginning 2016-17? *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 county. A property assessed at \$200,000 would pay approximately \$3.00 per year. Purpose is to:

- Reduce enrollment cost of 4-H youth program and provide in-school and afterschool 4-H opportunities
- Ensure public access to Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver, Compost and Pruning Specialist, Food Pantry, and Master Woodland volunteer programs
- Assist rural, suburban and urban residents with pest, disease and weed management, soil and water conservation
- Provide food safety and preservation, nutrition, and wellness education
- Provide technical assistance to farmers, forest owners and nursery growers; emphasizing management of insect, disease and production problems

Oregon State University, through state and federal funds, provides the majority of funding for Extension experts stationed in Lane County. Approximately 500 volunteers extend their efforts. Program fees, grants and contracts cover part of the costs of local programs and services. This local option tax would reduce 4-H enrollment costs, stabilize volunteer programs, and secure local Extension forestry and commercial agriculture positions.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$425,727 in 2016-17, \$438,499 in 2017-18, \$451,654 in 2018-19, \$465,203 in 2019-20, and \$479,159 in 2020-21, for a total of \$2,260,242. 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).)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

If approved, Measure XYZ authorizes Lane County to levy a local option tax to help support programs and services provided by Oregon State University's Extension (OSU) Service in Lane County. For the owner of a property assessed at \$200,000, this measure will result in three dollars of additional annual taxes for the next five years and then terminate.

County funding was eliminated for the local Extension office in 2010 due to reductions in federal timber harvests and loss of federal "safety net" revenue. After closing for months, the Extension office was moved and reopened by volunteers and skeleton-staffing from OSU. It is operating in a limited fashion in Lane County on federal and state tax resources, user fees, gifts, grants and contracts. This measure replaces the county general fund support that was lost in 2010 and allows for expanded services to the public, increased staff hours, and improved training.

Extension Service is OSU's off-campus educational system that addresses community needs through practical, research-based educational programs. Extension has been active in Lane County since 1911, serving urban and rural homeowners, farmers, ranchers, woodland owners, business persons, families, youth, seniors, and the public. A cooperative effort of federal, state, and local governments, Extension relies on county taxpayer support to provide locally based faculty with the resources needed to effectively service their communities.

Extension programs currently offered in Lane County include 4-H Youth Development, Community Horticulture, Master Food Preservers, Nutrition Education, Commercial Agriculture, and Forestry, Small Farms, Livestock and Forages Programs.

Measure XYZ will provide resources to reduce enrollment costs up to 25% and increase staffing for 4-H. Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver programs would be maintained. Small Farms and Livestock/Forages Programs for Lane County residents would expand. OSU would place two new faculty members in Lane County-- an Extension Forester and a Commercial Agricultural Agent-- to reinvigorate support services for property owners and managers.

This five year property tax of \$1.5 cents per \$1000 of assessed value will raise approximately \$425,727 in 2016-17, \$438,499 in 2017-18, \$451,654 in 2018-19, \$465,203 in 2019-20, and \$479,159 in 2020-21, for a total of \$2,260,242. This tax cannot be increased during the measure's five-year lifespan and will automatically terminate at the end of 2021.

With the exception of a one-time payment of \$8,500 to Lane County to defray the cost of this election, the funding will be dedicated to support OSU Extension programs and services for Lane County. This will be ensured through a binding contract between Lane County and OSU Extension Service.