

# **Measure Explanatory Statement for County Voters' Pamphlet**

This measure would not allow the City to raise taxes.

The Oregon City Police Department building was first purchased by the City in the 1980s. It houses the police department, the municipal court and code enforcement. The building is 12,000 square feet. In the 1980s, the population in Oregon City was under 16,000 and there were approximately 30 total police employees. Today, the population of Oregon City has nearly doubled to over 35,000 residents with 58 full time police employees. There are 4 full time and 8 part-time municipal court employees. Severe space limitations have forced police staff to house essential services in three double-wide trailers on the back of the property that provide an additional 4,000 square feet of space.

Oregon Law (ORS 455.400) requires that police and other emergency buildings meet seismic requirements by the year 2022. The existing building does not meet those requirements and would likely collapse during a significant seismic event. A functioning police department will play a key role in keeping the community safe following an earthquake or other natural disaster.

After studying alternatives for years, the City Commission resolved that a modern police department, municipal court, and emergency operations center should be constructed at the Mt. Pleasant School property, which was purchased by the City in January of 2015. The cost of the construction is estimated to be \$20 million. This ballot measure seeks authorization to allow the City to borrow up to \$16 million, over 20 years or less to issue revenue bonds to finance a portion of the new public safety facility. Repayment of the bonds would come from fees already being collected by the City. Those fees will continue to be collected by the City regardless of whether this measure passes. The remaining amount for the project would come from the sale of the current building and funds collected prior to the bond issuance. This measure would not allow the City to raise taxes.

The new public safety facility is expected to include separate entrances for those seeking police help and suspects of crimes, private interview rooms for victims, a modern emergency operations center and a public meeting space. Improvements to the municipal court are expected to include better security, a larger courtroom, and private meeting rooms for attorneys and their clients. The new public safety facility would also be more easily accessible to disabled citizens.

I'm the person submitting this Measure Explanatory Statement for the City of Oregon City.

---

Kattie Riggs, Election Official and City Recorder for the City of Oregon City