



COLUMBIA COUNTY
230 Strand Street
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
Phone: (503) 397-1035 Fax: (503) 366-7243

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 18, 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

INFORMATION CONTACT:
Janet Wright, PIO 503-397-1035

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE BALLOT TITLE FOR VETERANS OPERATING LEVY

Columbia County Board of Commissioners have formally approved a request from local veterans to refer a 5-year operating levy to voters in the November 2, 2010 General Election. The levy would provide stable Funding for the Columbia County Veteran Service Program.

In recent months the Columbia County Veterans Service Office has seen a record number of Veterans, from past and current armed conflicts, applying for assistance. Veterans Program Officer, Joe Pyle annually provides that assistance to 500 local veterans and their families. The Veterans Program assists veterans in applying for disability claims that cover physical injuries, mental health services, widow and family benefits, housing assistance and medical transportation needs, in addition to other services specific to veterans.

The rate for this operating levy is proposed at 3.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, and would represent \$3.50 to the owner of a \$100,000 home. Estimates of how much money would be generated during the life of the levy are:

\$150,381 in 2011/12,
\$156,397 in 2012/13,
\$162,653 in 2013/14
\$169,159 in 2014/15
\$175,925 in 2016/17

According to the County Clerk's Office, **September 7, 2010** is the last day to file arguments for or against any county-wide measure for inclusion in the County Voters' pamphlet. The appropriate forms can be obtained from the Columbia County Clerk's office at the Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon. For additional information on voter requirements, please call the County Clerk's Office at 503-397-7214.

Other Measures that have been submitted for the General Election include:

Measure No. 5-206: Makes County Commissioner Positions Nonpartisan Beginning in 2012. (County-wide)

Columbia City, Measure No. 5-207: Police Protection and Street/Storm System Maintenance Local Option Tax. (Columbia City Residents only)

For further information regarding the Veteran's 5-year operating levy contact Joe Pyle, Veterans Services Officer, at 503-366-6580 or Rocky Johnson, Director, Community Action Team at 503-366-6540