

Proposed Measure 5-298

City of St. Helens Local Option Tax Levy for Public Safety

Date of Election: May 21, 2024

St. Helens City Council has referred a measure to the May 2024 ballot. If passed by voters, the measure would authorize a five-year operating levy for police at a rate of \$0.69 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay approximately \$138 per year or \$12 per month.

Voters will have the opportunity to consider the measure and the Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund. If the measure passes, the City would use the tax revenue authorized by this measure to fund:

- Officer salaries
- Equipment
- Training

What happens if the measure does not pass?

If the measure does not pass, the salaries, equipment and training would not be funded as proposed and property taxes would not be increased.

May Primary Election Dates

Tuesday April 30 – Last day to register to vote or change party affiliation

Wednesday May 1 - First day for county clerks to mail ballots

Tuesday May 7 – Last day for county clerks to mail ballots

Tuesday May 21 – Election day ballots must be postmarked or received at an official drop box by 8 p.m.

St. Helens Ballot Drop Box:

Columbia County Courthouse 230 Strand Street

This information was reviewed by the Oregon Elections Division for compliance with ORS 260.432.

St. Helens Police Department Facts

24/7 patrol services comprised of three shifts per day

Staff of 24, including 21 sworn officers

Services include patrol, detective, code enforcement, K-9, evidence, administration

FY 23/24 adopted budget \$5.6 million

Average calls for service from 2018-2022: 17,240/year

51 search warrants completed in 2022

1,056 code enforcement complaints/activities initiated in 2022

Most issued traffic citation: Driving while suspended (175 in 2022)

Traffic stops conducted in 2022: 1,981

2022 arrests: 503 adults

Most common call for service category: Suspicious circumstance, person, vehicle