

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET**

Ballot Title Caption: City of St. Helens Police Protection Services Staffing Fund Local Option Tax

Measure Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Word Total (500 Maximum): 245

Governing Body: City of St. Helens

Person Responsible for Content: John Walsh, City Administrator

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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The City of St. Helens has a permanent tax rate of \$1.9078. This rate was set in 1997 and has not risen despite increases in all expenses. There is an annual cap of 3% that can be added yearly on property taxes to help these increased expenses. This is not enough to cover all services needed by our City to function.

The City of St. Helens has less than half the national average for law enforcement coverage per person. The national average is 3.5 police officers to 1,000 citizens. The City of St. Helens is 1.38. The City of St. Helens Police Department is understaffed.

Our police officers are under increasing demands due to increased population and the decriminalization of drugs. This increase in property and violent crimes severely impacts the citizens of St. Helens.

This measure would create an Enhanced Law Enforcement Operating Fund to be used exclusively for increasing law enforcement presence in the city. It would add three additional officers, necessary equipment, necessary training, and enable the police to continue to provide 24/7 law enforcement coverage in St. Helens as well as reduce response times.

If approved, this levy would raise approximately \$3,273,686 for police protection services over the 5-year period.

**Estimated annual cost:**

The approximate rate for the operating fund is \$0.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a home assessed at a value of \$200,000 the annual cost of this levy would be \$104 per year or \$0.28 per day.

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