

City of St. Helens
RESOLUTION NO. 2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. HELENS
IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED JAIL LEVY

WHEREAS, the old Columbia County jail was over crowded and needed to be replaced by a new facility; and

WHEREAS, the citizens passed a bond to build a new jail that was successfully built with capacity of 255 beds in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the jail's primary funding sources are the County General Fund, Federal bed rentals, and the Jail Operating Tax Levy; and

WHEREAS, operating expenses have increased by \$1,500,000 due to medical costs; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners have proposed an increase to the four-year jail operating tax levy to fund continued operations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ballot measure would secure funding that would ensure that operations and staffing at the jail are maintained; and

WHEREAS, the proposed measure would help keep criminals off the streets in Columbia County, deterring crime and protecting the county residents, businesses and property from increased crime, decreased property value, and increased insurance costs; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the levy would create a hardship for the St. Helens Police Department by requiring them to transport mandatory arrests further distances, as well as transporting to and from court and to and from medical treatment facilities, which takes them away from serving the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Helens City Council supports approval of the Jail Operations Levy as proposed, due to the potential negative impacts on the St. Helens community.

Approved and adopted by the City Council on August 21, 2024, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Rick Scholl, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Payne, City Recorder