

City of St. Helens Proposed General Services Fee

DRAFT dated February 10, 2026

May 19, 2026 Election

Explanatory Statement (not more than 500 words)

The City projects a budget shortfall for the FY 26/27 in the amount of \$2,214,000 if the service level provided by the existing General Fund staffing, programs, and services is to remain the same. The General Fund services include staffing, programs and services by police, library, parks, recreation, community development, administration, information technology (IT), and municipal court.

What are the voters being asked to approve?

The City of St. Helens is referring a ballot measure for voter approval of a General Services Fee to fund staffing, programs and services in police, library, parks, recreation, community development, administration, information technology (IT), and municipal court, which are also known as the General Fund services.

The proposed General Services Fee is in the amount of \$35.30 per equivalent dwelling unit on developed property for fiscal year 2026-27 and adjusted annually using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) West as of the prior year. If approved by a majority of the voters, the fee will be charged monthly on customer's utility bills, effective July 1, 2026, expiring June 30, 2035. The proposed General Services Fee Ordinance No. _____ can be found at the City of St. Helens website at: <https://sthelensoregon.gov/ordinances>.

Receipts from the General Services Fee will be recorded in a dedicated general ledger account for the General Services Fee. The General Services Fee shall be used for police, library, parks, recreation, community development, information technology (IT), administration and municipal court staffing, programs and services. The city will provide quarterly reports to City Council that document the General Service Fee revenue and expenditures. The City's annual audit will include a review of the collection and use of the General Services Fee revenues.

What happens if the voters do not approve the General Services Fee?

Without additional revenue, the General Fund staffing, programs and services listed above will likely be reduced to ensure the City may adopt a balanced budget with adequate reserves.

BALLOT TITLE**CAPTION (NOT MORE THAN 10 WORDS)**

Fee for General Fund staffing, programs, and services

QUESTION (NOT MORE THAN 20 WORDS)

Should City adopt a fee of \$35.30 per month charged on utility accounts for General Fund staffing, programs, and services?

SUMMARY (NOT MORE THAN 175 WORDS)

The General Fund Services:

- City Hall: five (5) days / week
- Library: six (6) days / week
- Municipal Court: five (5) days / week
- 13 parks: approximately 204 acres
- Recreation: 3,000 participants
- Police: 24/7 coverage

General Fund Staffing numbers:

- 23 Police Department, including thirteen (13) police officers, four (4) sergeants, one (1) detective, one (1) lieutenant, one (1) Chief, three (3) administrative, including code enforcement
- Six (6) Library
- Three (3) Parks
- Two and a half (2.5) Recreation
- Five (5) Community Development
- Nine and a half (9.5) Administration, including City Administrator, City Recorder, HR, Finance, Communications
- Two (2) Municipal Court, excluding contracted municipal court judge, public defenders
- One (1) Information Technology (IT)

To continue the same level of services, the City will need to increase revenue or services will be reduced.

The General Services Fee is \$35.30 per equivalent dwelling unit charged monthly on developed property and adjusted annually using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) West as of the prior year, effective July 1, 2026, expiring June 30, 2035.