

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **NOTICE OF BALLOT TITLE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following ballot title referring a five-year Community Services and Livability local option levy, referred by the City Council to the electors of the City of Salem for the May 20, 2025, District Election was filed with the City Elections Officer on February 24, 2025.

### **CAPTION**

FIVE-YEAR OPERATING LEVY FOR PARKS, RECREATION, LIBRARIES, AND SENIOR SERVICES

### **QUESTION**

Shall Salem maintain parks, recreation, library, Center 50+ services; with 5-year levy, at \$0.98 per \$1,000 assessed value, beginning 2025-26? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

### **SUMMARY**

If approved, levy funds would support Salem park operations, including cleaning and maintenance, more library hours, recreation activities and Center 50+ senior programs for five years, beginning July 1, 2025.

In 2024, due to budget constraints, the City reduced funding to city services by more than \$6 million impacting parks, recreation, library, Center 50+, youth development, public safety, and other services. Additional reductions may be necessary without additional revenue.

Funds from this levy would restore, maintain and be limited to:

- Parks cleaning, maintenance, and programs;
- Recreation Services operations and programs;
- Public Library operations, programs, and restored hours at the main and west Salem branches; and
- Center 50+ operations and programs.

Use of levy revenue for these services will free General Funds to be used for other services, like Police, Fire, and Emergency Response.

The cost of this levy is estimated at \$220 per year for a typical home with an assessed (not market) value of \$224,000.

An oversight committee will review levy expenditures, provide annual reports. Independent audit required.

By fiscal year, this levy is estimated to raise the following amounts:

25-26 - \$14,002,000

26-27 - \$14,611,000

27-28 - \$15,247,000

28-29 - \$15,910,000

29-30 - \$16,602,000

Total - \$76,372,000

An elector may, pursuant to SRC 11.266 (d), appeal the ballot title to the Municipal Judge for the City of Salem, by filing a written appeal with the City Recorder, requesting a different ballot title and stating why the ballot title is unsatisfactory no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 7, 2025.

Salem Reporter 03/03/2025