

# HAPPY VALLEY PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY MEASURE 3-551



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What is the Happy Valley Public Safety Levy?

Measure 3-551, a public safety levy, has been referred to the ballot for the voters' consideration. If the safety levy passes, a property tax rate of \$1.38 per \$1,000 would be assessed. This is the same tax rate that has been assessed since 2002. All funds collected would be spent on dedicated police services in Happy Valley, which is established by an annual contract the city has with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. If this measure passes, collected taxes would be in addition to the city's permanent tax rate of \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the safety levy does not pass, taxpayers would not pay \$1.38 per \$1,000 to the city and dedicated police services in Happy Valley would be eliminated.

### Q. If the levy passes, how much property tax would be assessed?

Persons who pay property tax would not see any change in the tax rate compared to previous years. Since 2002, Happy Valley property owners have been taxed at the same rate of \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the levy passes, property owners would continue to pay a rate of \$1.38 per \$1,000 assessed value for another five years, the duration of the levy.

### Q. How have police services in Happy Valley been funded in the past?

Since 2002, Happy Valley property owners have paid taxes to fund dedicated police services. Residents have been taxed at a rate of \$1.38 per \$1,000 per assessed value (approximately \$483/year for a home with an assessed value of \$350,000). This tax money is utilized specifically to cover law enforcement costs, which are paid through an annual contract with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. This annual contract specifies the dedicated police services provided in Happy Valley.

### Q. What would happen if the levy passes?

If the levy passes, citizens would continue to receive dedicated police services in Happy Valley. Through the continued levy funding and increased assessed value due to growth, the City will maintain our current level of service and add additional officers and programs. Persons who pay property tax would continue to pay \$1.38 per \$1,000 assessed value. The city would continue to contract with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office for its law enforcement needs.

### Q. What would happen if the levy does not pass?

If the levy does not pass, there would be no dedicated police services in Happy Valley and none of the following services would be provided.

- Dedicated police patrols in Happy Valley
- Happy Valley Police Department
- Proactive crime prevention services
- Proactive traffic enforcement (including enforcement in school zones)

**Q. If the levy passes, how long would the property tax be assessed?**

Five years. The levy would be put on the ballot for voters' consideration after five years.

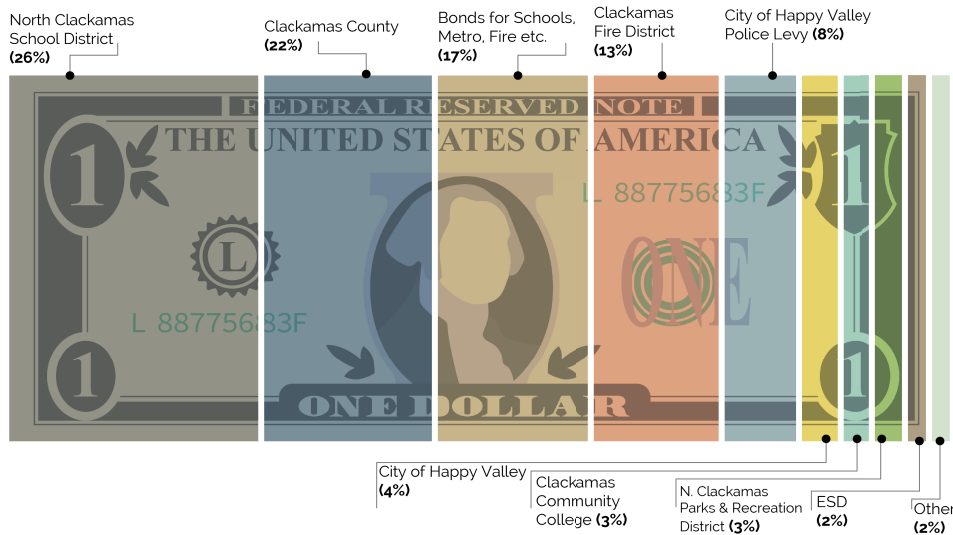
**Q. Were other funding options considered?**

The City's permanent tax rate is \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and cannot be increased. The passing of Measures 5 (1990) and 50 (1997) set limits on the amount of tax levied on property values for schools and set a permanent tax rate on all tax districts in Oregon. Due to these measures, Happy Valley's permanent tax rate of \$0.67 cannot be increased. The City Council referred this measure to the voters after considering information and research conducted by the Traffic and Public Safety Committee.

**Q. How are property tax revenues distributed?**

The City's permanent tax rate is 4% of the property tax assessed. If the safety levy passes, it would account for 8%. This is the same percentage property owners have already been paying. The rest of the tax bill goes to schools, Clackamas County, and other service districts.

**DISTRIBUTION OF HAPPY VALLEY RESIDENT TAX DOLLARS**



**Q. What are the permanent tax rates in the region?**

Happy Valley's current tax rate is \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If the safety levy passes, residents would pay a total of \$2.05 for City and law enforcement services. This amount includes the City's tax rate of \$0.67 and the levy amount of \$1.38. The chart below breaks down the permanent tax rate in other cities in the region.

**CURRENT TAX RATES IN THE REGION**

