

**Ballot Measure Summaries for County & Local
November 2022 General Election
League of Women Voters of Coos County**

COUNTYWIDE MEASURES

6-206: Psilocybin-related business prohibition

Please note: This measure addresses psilocybin businesses in unincorporated areas of the county. Most of the cities within Coos County have ALSO placed psilocybin business measures on the ballot. So people living within city limits would vote on two measures, the county one and the city one. See below for the city measures.

Ballot title: Prohibits psilocybin-related business within unincorporated Coos County.

Referral: The County Commission adopted Ordinance 22-07-0051 prohibiting the establishment of psilocybin product manufacturing and psilocybin service centers within the unincorporated areas (outside city limits) of Coos County. The ordinance gives the voters of Coos County the opportunity to decide whether the statewide program created by Measure 109 will be allowed in those areas.

Financial impact: None provided.

Background: In the November 2020 General Election, Ballot Measure 109 was passed by Oregon voters. Measure 109 created a statewide program to allow licensed providers to administer psilocybin-producing mushroom and fungi products to individuals 21 years of age or older. The measure also allows the licensed manufacture of psilocybin products subject to regulations by the Oregon Health Authority. Studies have indicated that a few doses of psilocybin may be effective in treating depression, trauma, and addiction. But the treatments have not been vetted or approved by the FDA, and the OHA has not completed the process of drafting regulations to govern its use. A county or city may adopt an ordinance prohibiting the establishment of psilocybin-related businesses within the unincorporated areas of the county, but the ordinance must be referred to the voters at the next statewide general election.

A YES vote means: Establishment and operation of psilocybin product manufacturing and psilocybin service centers within the unincorporated areas of Coos County will be prohibited.

A NO vote means: Establishment and operation of psilocybin manufacturing and service centers will be allowed within the unincorporated areas of Coos County.

Supporters say: No psilocybin treatment has yet been vetted or approved by the FDA, so it cannot be administered in a medical setting. There are not enough recognized medical standards to ensure the safe use of psilocybin. The OHA has released only part of its final rules, so many aspects of the business can't be regulated at this time. We have enough impacts from drug use in our communities already and don't need to introduce a new class of drugs. In 2020, voters in Coos County opposed the state psilocybin measure by a wide margin.

Opponents say: Multiple studies indicate that psilocybin therapy is effective at treating

conditions like acute depression, PTSD, and addiction. The FDA gave it “breakthrough therapy” status a few years ago, meaning that it is a treatment that may prove much more effective than currently available ones. It has been used successfully in other countries. Psilocybin would be administered only in a controlled setting and by trained providers.

6-204: Five-year levy to increase jail funding and capacity

Ballot title: A five-year levy to increase jail funding and capacity

Referral: The Coos County Commissioners voted to place this measure before the voters after a unanimous recommendation from a public safety committee.

Financial impact: If the levy passes, it will increase revenue specifically for funding the county jail by \$2.5 to \$2.8 million per year for five years. The funds would be subject to an annual independent audit. If the measure fails, no additional funding will be available to the jail.

Background: When the Coos County jail was built, it was intended to house up to 150 inmates, but staffing shortages in the Sheriff’s Department have reduced the capacity to 48. Coos County has a very tight budget: The total budget is \$130 million per year, most of which is dedicated funding (e.g., gas tax funds have to go to the Roads Department). Its general fund (discretionary money) is only about \$30 million, of which half goes to the Sheriff’s Department. The department has among the lowest compensation rates among law enforcement agencies in the area, which has led to loss of personnel. The county takes in only \$6 million in property tax revenue. Meanwhile, crime rates have recently increased and some offenses previously illegal are now decriminalized. State guidelines and statutes govern which types of offenses are subject to detention and which allow for immediate release. During the pandemic, the department moved from a “book and release” program to a “cite and release program,” which is similar but costs the department less in time, transport, and other expenses. Some residents have expressed dismay about this change and would like to see more of the jail’s capacity used. The five-year levy would impose a \$.45 tax on every \$1,000 of property value for a period of five years. During that time the funds would be directed exclusively to jail operations, including recruiting and hiring additional personnel for the jail as well as increased overhead costs such as utilities, meals, and services for a larger number of inmates. Of course, because of statewide detention and sentencing guidelines, the levy would increase capacity in the jail to 150 inmates but might not increase the actual jail population to the same number; that would depend on the number of violent crimes committed.

A YES vote means: The county would add a levy to Coos County’s property taxes for five years amounting to \$.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

A NO vote means: The levy would not be added to property taxes.

Supporters say: Too often, people who have been charged with crimes are released instead of being held pending a bail hearing or trial, and convicted people are released before serving their full sentences. The additional funding would give the Sheriff’s Department a greater capacity to detain these people. County government’s budget is stretched to its limits, and it is not possible to increase funding for the Sheriff’s Department without a new revenue stream. Although the price tag seems high, a pipeline bond that has been taxing

property owners at \$.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value will expire at the end of this year, before the levy takes effect; and two years from now, another short-term levy expires, saving another \$.20 per \$1,000. Other potential revenue sources are uncertain or far in the future. Coos County has among the lowest tax rates in the state.

Opponents say: The county should allocate more money out of its budget for the jail, making cuts elsewhere, or else increase revenue by increasing logging and salmon runs. Others say more incarceration would have no meaningful impact on crime rates, and there exist cheaper alternatives such as community service. In the current atmosphere of economic uncertainty and inflation, now is not the time to be raising taxes for a program that will expire in five years anyway.

LOCAL MEASURES

BANDON

6-206: Psilocybin-related business prohibition

This measure is similar to the county measure (see county section above) except that the ban lasts only two years and applies only within the city limits.

6-207: City Council authority to set systems development charges

Ballot title: City Council authority to set system development charges

Referral: This measure was placed on the ballot by the City Council. Approval of this measure would amend the City Charter to allow the City Council to set systems development charges for new developments.

Fiscal impact: No impact statement was submitted.

Background: The city currently charges systems development charges (SDCs) for water, sewer, stormwater, and streets. However, those charges have not been modified in many years. If approved, this measure would allow the City Council to set SDCs only on new development in accordance with state statutes without having to submit the matter to voters. New development creates the need for a larger capacity to supply essential services such as water, transportation, sewer, stormwater, and parks and recreation. Systems development charges are an important means for cities to pay for increased capacity within infrastructure to accommodate an increase in users.

A YES vote means: The City Council will be empowered to set systems development charges for new development.

A NO vote means: The City Council will have to continue to seek voter approval to make changes in systems development charges.

Supporters say: No arguments in favor found.

Opponents say: No arguments opposed found.

COOS BAY

6-202: Psilocybin-related business prohibition

This measure is similar to the county measure (see county section above) but applies within the city limits.

COQUILLE

6-199: Psilocybin-related business prohibition

This measure is similar to the county measure (see county section above) but applies within the city limits.

LAKESIDE

6-198: Residents and visitors allowed access to City's ATV route—amended

Ballot title: Residents and visitors allowed access to the City's ATV route.

Referral: This measure was placed on the ballot by the City Council.

Fiscal impact: No impact statement was submitted.

Background: In 2020, the City Council adopted Lakeside Ordinance 20-297, governing the use of certain streets by ATVs for access to the dunes. With this vote, the ordinance would be modified to read as follows: "Subject to the provisions of this Chapter, ATV's may be operated on the specific route as follows: West from Coos County Park, Along Park Avenue East to South 8th Street. From South 8th Street to Airport Way and from Airport Way to Spinreel Road, with final destination at Spinreel Dunes. Subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth under ORS 821.200, residents and visitors may access the route with their ATV's by the most direct means available. All-Terrain Vehicles are prohibited from operating under this Ordinance on any State of Oregon Highway, within boundaries of the City, unless on roads designated as All-Terrain Vehicle Highway Access Route by Oregon Transportation Commission." The 2020 ordinance first opened certain city streets to ATV traffic; previously, people living or staying in Lakeside had to load their ATVs on a trailer to transport it to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. After the law changed, tourism revenue in the town jumped from \$68,000 to \$123,000. This measure would expand the number of streets on which ATVs are allowed, albeit with restrictions.

A YES vote means: The modification of the ordinance quoted above will be enacted.

A NO vote means: The current ordinance governing ATV access to city streets will remain unchanged.

Supporters say: ATV drivers will be allowed to get from the dunes to Lakeside's shops and businesses without loading up their buggies. It will be a boon to business by making the town a destination for ATV users.

Opponents say: Allowing expanded ATV use on the streets will be disruptive and dangerous

and alter the tranquil character of the town. They consider the ballot language misleading. They fear it will be impossible to enforce, leading to ATVs driving at will on streets where they are still not allowed. They object that children as young as 10 can drive ATVs, and they do not need to be insured for off-road driving.

6-201: Psilocybin-related business prohibition

This measure is similar to the county measure (see county section above) but applies within the city limits.

MYRTLE POINT

6-205: Psilocybin-related business prohibition

This measure is similar to the county measure (see county section above) but applies within the city limits.

NORTH BEND

6-200: Psilocybin-related business prohibition

This measure is similar to the county measure (see county section above) but applies within the city limits.