



OREGON
MARION COUNTY
VOTER PAMPHLET

September 16, 2008
Special Election

Bill Burgess
 Marion County Clerk

CITY OF ST. PAUL

OFFICIAL MARION
COUNTY DROP SITES

Ballots for Marion County voters will only be issued from the County Elections Office, 4263 Commercial St. SE, Room 300, Salem. The following Marion County Ballot Drop Sites are open normal business hours beginning on September 2, 2008 and until 8:00 PM on Election Day, September 16, 2008.

Marion County Elections Office

4263 Commercial St. SE, Room 300, Salem

U.S. Bank

20259 Main St. NE, St. Paul

4263 Commercial St. SE, #300, Salem

Phone: 503-588-5041 or 1-800-655-5388

TTY/TDD: 503-588-5610 FAX: 503-588-5383

E-Mail: elections@co.marion.or.us

Website: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/CO/elections/>

If you have a disability or are otherwise unable to mark your ballot, you may contact the Elections Office for assistance.

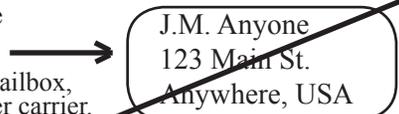
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- **New registrations** needed to be completed and post-marked by August 26, 2008.

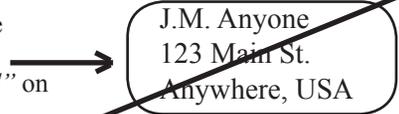
If you have questions about registration or voting, contact the Elections Office.

IMPORTANT BALLOT INFORMATION

If a ballot has been delivered to your address and it is addressed to someone who does not live at your address:

1. Mark through the address like this: 
2. Return to your mailbox, post office or letter carrier.

If a ballot has been delivered to someone at your address who is deceased:

1. Mark through the address like this: 
2. Write "Deceased" on the envelope.
3. Return to your mailbox, post office or letter carrier.

Notify Marion County Elections BEFORE voting the ballot delivered to you if:

- Your name is different than that on the label; or
- Your residence address has changed; or
- You have added, deleted or changed a mailing address.

REVIEW THE BALLOT PACKET

It should contain the following additional items:

- Printed ballot
- A pre-addressed Return/Secrecy envelope

If any items are missing, contact Marion County Elections.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING YOUR BALLOT

To make sure your vote counts:

- **DO NOT** use a felt tip pen to mark your ballot. Use a pencil or black ballpoint ink pen.
- Mark the arrow with a single line. Do not make multiple/ heavy marks. Vote the ballot on a hard surface.
- To vote on a measure, complete the arrow pointing to either the "YES" or "NO",

LIKE THIS: 

NOT THIS:  OR THIS: 

CHECK YOUR BALLOT

- Make sure you have completely filled in the arrow(s) next to your choice(s).
- If you vote **both YES and NO** on a measure, it is called an Overvote. Your vote will not count for that measure.
- You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.

RETURNING YOUR VOTED BALLOT

- Place the ballot in the secrecy envelope, seal it, then place the secrecy envelope in the brown return envelope. Do not remove the label.
- Sign the Voter Statement on the back of the brown return envelope. **Your ballot will not be counted if you do not sign your envelope.**
- To return your ballot by mail, place one 42 cent stamp on the envelope.
- To return your ballot other than through the mail, you may refer to the list of ballot drop sites. You may

FOR YOUR BALLOT TO BE COUNTED

- Mark your ballot according to voting instructions.
- Do **NOT** remove any label(s)
- Use your secrecy envelope.
- Your brown return ballot envelope **must be signed**.
- Your ballot must be received in the Elections Office or an Official Ballot Drop Site by 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. **POSTMARK DOES NOT COUNT.**

WHAT IF I . . . ?

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

If you make a mistake that cannot be corrected, call the Marion County Elections Office and request a replacement ballot. One will be mailed to you provided the request is received within time for mailing. Otherwise, you may pick up a replacement ballot in person.

What if I change my mind after I turn in my ballot?

Your ballot has been cast as soon as you deposit it in the mail or at a drop site. After that, you cannot receive a new ballot.

What if I don't vote on everything on the ballot?

Your ballot will be counted.

What if I don't sign my return envelope?

Your ballot will be returned to you for your signature, unless there isn't time to return it by mail. In that case, you will need to come into our office and sign it.

Referred to the People by the City Council

24-246 THREE YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX FOR CITY OPERATIONS

QUESTION: Should the city renew \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value each year for three-years for operations beginning in 2008-09? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout. The City of St. Paul is faced with a variety of expenditures including land-use planning, housing development and resource protection. At the present time one part-time employee, consultant assistance, and volunteer citizens are addressing these issues.

The City's permanent tax rate of \$.6157 per assessed \$1,000 currently raises approximately \$16,943 annually. The average homeowner within the city with a home assessed at \$150,000 the annual taxes collected are approximately \$92.35. These funds are deposited in the general fund to cover expenditures such as; street lighting, police protection, land-use planning, housing development, resource protection, budget, financial management, insurance, general administration, professional services, auditing, legal consultation, engineering and planning.

Measure 24-246 proposes a three-year local option tax; passage of this measure would result in an increase in property taxes of \$1.50 per year per \$1,000 assessed value. The average homeowner in the City with a home assessed at \$150,000, the annual property tax increase would be approximately \$225. The proposed rate would raise approximately \$41,279 for each of the fiscal years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 for city operations.

Explanatory Statement

What does the measure propose?

This three (3) year local option tax would continue a current tax of \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value which expired June 30, 2007. This local option tax would be in addition to the City's permanent tax rate of \$0.6157. This tax revenue would go into the city's General Fund.

What is the General Fund?

The General Fund pays for city expenditures not covered by the city's sewer, water, and street revenues which are dedicated funds. The General Fund covers such services as street lighting, police, land-use planning, housing development, budget and financial management, record keeping, insurance, administration, and professional services for auditing, legal, engineering and planning.

Why is this additional General Fund Revenue for St. Paul proposed?

The City currently gets funding from a permanent tax rate of \$0.6157 and temporary local option tax of \$1.50 to supplement the General Fund. The temporary tax expired on June 30, 2007. Without additional tax revenue, the City must rely on the permanent tax rate to support services. Based on 2008/09 budget information, tax revenue collected for General Fund purposes will be reduced to approximately \$16,943 unless another local option tax is approved by the voters.

The City is legally required to carry out General Fund functions relating to a variety of issues such as land-use planning, and development, budgeting and record keeping. These issues are currently being addressed with one part-time employee, limited consultant assistance, and citizen volunteer contributions. The local option tax is being proposed to maintain the current level of City services for three more years.

How much tax revenue does St. Paul currently collect?

The current property tax rate for the City of St. Paul is a combination of three separate taxes (permanent, local option, and sewer bond) totaling approximately \$2.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If voters approve the proposed local option tax, the City's combined tax rate would continue at approximately this rate from November 15, 2008 to June 30, 2011.

What should citizens know about the requested local option tax?

Under state law, the City cannot increase its permanent tax rate. It may ask voters to approve temporary tax measures. The revenues from the measure must be put into a separate fund and can only be used for the purpose stated in the measure. If this measure is approved, the City would collect the first year's revenue beginning in fiscal year 2008-09. If the local option tax is not approved, the City would only collect taxes at the permanent tax rate of \$0.6157 per \$1,000 of assessed value starting November 15, 2008.

The impact of the proposed levy on an individual homeowner would vary by the value of the home. At the proposed combined rate of \$2.59, property taxes on a \$150,000 home would be \$388.50 per year.