

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE Marion County Clerk  
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Election Date: November 4, 2025

AUG 18 2025

The Stayton City Council referred this local option tax measure to the City's voters. If approved by the voters, this measure creates a five-year local option tax of \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value starting July 1, 2026 to fund continued operations of the City's parks and the Stayton Family Memorial Pool. This proposed tax would replace the current five-year local option tax approved in 2021, of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value which expires June 30, 2026.

Historically, the City funded parks and the pool through levies that also supported other services such as the library. However, at the May 2021 election, the City introduced separate levies, one levy dedicated to library operations and a second levy dedicated to operations for the City's parks and pool.

The City currently maintains and operates 138 acres of land for developed parks and natural areas. Operation of these assets includes the staff time, equipment, and materials for keeping the properties mowed, clean, and healthy. With the increase in personnel costs, along with the increase in equipment and materials costs, the current levy rate would not fund the full extent of operational needs for the City's parks. With the proposed levy, the City will meet operational needs and aims to expand open spaces by developing new parks and reopening Wilderness Park through a contract with the Santiam Water Control District. Without the proposed levy, rather than expanding services, the City would be faced with the prospects of reducing park services, limiting park maintenance, and cutting back on park access.

The Stayton Family Memorial Pool operates approximately 60 hours per week and provides programing for both youth and adults. Maintaining the pool not only consists of the staff and materials for daily operations but also includes staying current on maintenance projects and improvement projects. Last year, the City commissioned a pool facility audit that will help guide the City in ensuring the pool stays operational for years to come. The audit identified several projects that would cost up to \$920,000. While the pool does generate some revenue through user fees, these fees do not fully fund pool operations. Without funding from the proposed levy, the City would be faced with making significant cuts to pool operations, including reduced hours, and potentially deferring required improvements that would jeopardize the long-term functioning of the facility. Closing the pool would also be considered if the levy fails.

The City's recreational services are guided by a citizen-volunteer Parks and Recreation Board, which recommends priorities for services and spending of levy revenue. This Board helps oversee operations of the City's parks and provides input on planning recreational programs throughout the City.

The proposed tax rate of \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value would result in an estimated annual payment from property owners of \$277, based on the current average assessed home value in Stayton of \$252,000. It is important to note that the assessed value is not the same as the market value of a home.

Total Words 490 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Signature Redacted

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title City Manager

Printed Name Julia Hajduk Local Government Unit City of Stayton