

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE  
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Marion County Clerk

MAR 05 2026

Election Date: May 19, 2026

Elections Division

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 \$0.985 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 its 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 and aging equipment and facilities, 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 hopes to expand open spaces available to City residents by developing new park facilities. 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 programming 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. In late 2024, 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 revenue through user fees, these fees do not fully fund pool operations. Without funding from the proposed levy, the City Council would be faced with making significant programming and operations cuts which would likely include closure of the pool.

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 \$0.985 per \$1,000 of assessed value would result in an estimated annual payment from property owners of \$248.22, 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 476 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature Signature Redacted Title City Manager

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Local Government Unit City of Stayton

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