

East Salem Service District Law Enforcement Fee FAQ's

My tax statement lists “law enforcement fee.” What is this?

A law enforcement fee was added to the existing East Salem Service District (“ESSD”) that provides sewer services and lighting districts to the designated area in east Salem. As with other fees paid by residents who live in this district, the fee is included on property tax statements.

What does it cost?

\$10 per month, per household or apartment, and \$10 per acre of commercial property.

How will this fee be used?

The fee provides for 10 dedicated deputies to operate exclusively in the east Salem area, much like contract deputies who work within some municipalities, using vehicles and a patch distinctly for the area, performing public safety and community policing functions.

Why is this a fee and not a tax levy?

After hearing from the east Salem community about the need for additional law enforcement resources to address quality of life concerns, this fee was added to the district in order to add 10 deputies exclusively for this area.

How can I see if my property is in the East Salem Service District?

Please visit www.co.marion.or.us/so for a link to a searchable map.

What did you do to notify the public?

We held a number of town halls, provided public notices, received emailed testimony and held public hearings between April and June. One town hall was streamed live on our Facebook page (@MCSOintheknow).

Why is the fee only for east Salem area residents?

The east Salem areas of Hayesville and Four Corners make up about 5.5 square miles or less than .5% of Marion County’s total land area, yet 54% of the Sheriff’s Office’s cases originate from these areas. Because of this need, it’s extremely important that we have deputies dedicated specifically to the east Salem area to focus on solving problems and address livability concerns.

This seems to be a tax, but you're calling it a fee?

The fee was added to properties within the specific boundaries of the East Salem Service District. It is a flat fee and does not affect your tax rate (see next question for more info).

How does my tax rate compare?

When combined, the population of the Hayesville and Four Corners compare in size and density to the city of Keizer. Because the areas are outside of city of Salem limits, neighbors in the county pay significantly less in property taxes than neighbors within the city limits, while being immediately adjacent to the amenities of the city. The East Salem Service District provides increased services to be dedicated to this more densely populated area so that neighborhoods can enjoy services, while keeping tax rates lower. Here's a snapshot of similar homes and the tax rates:

City of Salem	East Salem (Marion County)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$19.8652 per thousand of assessed value • Example Properties: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15.4273 per thousand of assessed value • Comparison Properties:
Home on 31 st Ave NE, Salem	Home on Meadow Park Lp NE
Year built: 1977	Year built: 1977
Living area: 1,272	Living area: 1,287
Tax Statement: \$2,989.52	Tax Statement: \$2,533.56
Home on Dolphin Ave NE	Home on Great Plains Dr NE
Year built: 2000	Year built: 2000
Living area: 1,148	Living area: 1,292
Tax Statement: \$3,046.34	Tax Statement: \$2,565.52

If this area gets annexed into the city will the fee go away?

Yes, if any of the affected areas are annexed, the fee will be removed from the affected properties. Services will then be provided by the city and tax rates adjusted accordingly.

What happens next?

We are recruiting to fill the 10 positions in order to work up to the 24/7 coverage exclusively in the east Salem area. As you can imagine, it takes time to hire and fill these positions. Several deputies have requested to work in the area, so these assignments will be made first. In November, you'll see several vehicles re-marked as dedicated for east Salem. We have also begun the process of creating a patch to be reflective of the area. Advanced art students at Stephens Middle School submitted designs for consideration; a committee comprised of

community members, a Salem Keizer School District representative and Sheriff's Office representatives will review the submissions and a winning design will be announced in early December.

How can I stay informed?

Visit the Sheriff's Office ESSD webpage at www.co.marion.or.us/so. You can also sign up for East Salem-specific public safety emails from the Sheriff's Office. To do this, go to www.co.marion.or.us, scroll to bottom-right of screen, click "newsletter signup" and follow instructions. Join Nextdoor.com where many of your neighbors are members. You can also attend neighborhood association meetings and see us there as well.

