

## Property Taxes From New Development Does Not Cover Existing Services

### The Facts:

- The loss of the levy, passed in 2002, will create a \$1 million loss of property taxes in the budget.
- A new \$350,000 home is assessed at about \$200,000 under state law Measure 50.
- It would take 1,250 brand new \$350,000 homes to replace the current \$1 million levy. In FY 2007, the City issued 99 new home permits.
- New growth would pay for additional services that result from new growth. It would not replace the money provided by the levy to provide current services.

### Key Information

- No new positions or services would be created by passage of the levy.
- The additional cost to property owners for an average home assessed at \$180,000 is \$5.40 more a month or \$65 per year than the existing levy. The total levy is \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value.



In May 2007, three out of four citizens who voted in Forest Grove supported passage of the Public Safety/Community Service levy, but the levy failed because the measure did not receive the required 50 percent turnout. Because of the

strong support expressed by the citizens and the continued need for a replacement levy, the City Council has submitted a five-year local option Public Safety/Community Service levy to the voters on the November 6, 2007, ballot.

Ballots will be mailed October 19, 2007, and must be returned to the Washington County Elections Office or deposited in the ballot box by 8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 6th**. The drive-by ballot box is located at 2102 Pacific Avenue in front of the Police Station.

This information authorized by the City of Forest Grove, 1924 Council Street, PO Box 326, Forest Grove, OR 97116. For more information, visit website at [www.forestgrove-or.gov](http://www.forestgrove-or.gov) or contact 503-992-3200 or email to [info@forestgrove-or.gov](mailto:info@forestgrove-or.gov).

## CITY OF FOREST GROVE PUBLIC SAFETY / COMMUNITY SERVICES LEVY

### MEASURE 34-147

### VOTE by NOVEMBER 6, 2007



### TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN SERVICES

- **Police** - restore 2 police officers
- **Fire** - restore 2 firefighters and strengthen ability to respond to multiple calls at same time
- **Pool** - reopen on weekends
- **Library** - restore hours of operation
- **Parks** - restore staff to maintain parks
- **Maintain** 2002 level of services and prevent further reductions

## Why is the Levy needed?

- In November, 2002, the voters approved a five-year local option levy to:
  - help maintain City services,
  - add three police officers, and
  - add two firefighter/paramedics.
- The 2002 levy expires this fiscal year and this measure would replace it.
- In July 2007, the City reduced 2 police positions, 2 firefighter positions, 1 park maintenance staff, and part-time library, aquatic and planning staff.
- Property tax revenue is the primary source of funding for police and fire services.
- The reduction to Fire Department staff has made it increasingly difficult to respond to 2 calls at the same time. This happened 370 times last year. Approximately 69% of all calls are for medical emergencies when every second is critical.



## What happens if the Levy passes?

- It would allow the City to restore public safety service levels and then maintain the level of services that the 2002 local option levy funded.
- This measure would not add any additional positions or services. It would allow the City to replace the positions eliminated in July, 2007.
- It would also allow the City to prevent further reductions that would be necessary to balance next year's budget.
- This measure would also restore part-time staff necessary to restore weekend hours of operation at both the pool and the library.

## What happens if the Levy fails?

- The City would be unable to restore any of the positions eliminated in July 2007.
- Police and Fire response times may decline.
- An estimated \$1 million in additional budget reductions to Police, Fire, Library, Aquatics, Planning and Administrative Services may be necessary.

## How much will the levy cost?

- This measure would renew the \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value levy and increase it by \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- A typical homeowner currently pays \$178 per year in property taxes for the \$0.99 levy. The increase in the levy rate of \$0.36 would cost typical homeowners an additional \$65 per year in property taxes. Assumes average assessed value (not market value) of \$180,000.

### Double Majority Requirement

2007 is a double majority election year, which means that at least 50% of registered voters must vote and, of those voting, a majority must vote yes for a measure to pass.

