



City of Eugene, Oregon

VOTERS' PAMPHLET

November 5, 2019
Special Election

This pamphlet contains information about
the following ballot measure:

City of Eugene
20-302 Amends Charter:
Caps rate, limits use of city's payroll tax



Mail Ballot Voter Information

The November 5, 2019, Special Election will be conducted by mail ballot. **All ballots must be received in the Lane County Elections office or at a designated drop site by 8:00 p.m. on election night. Postmarks do not count.**

See page 2 for drop box locations.

All Oregon county election offices are considered poll locations on Election Day and are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Lane County Elections
275 W. 10th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401
Phone: 541-682-4234**

Open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon, and 1 - 4 p.m.; Election Day 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

NOTICE TO VOTERS

This voters' pamphlet was produced by the City of Eugene and contains information related to the City of Eugene ballot measure only. Registered voters within the city of Eugene will receive a ballot for this measure.

The City is not authorized to include information concerning other measures or candidates in this pamphlet.

To reduce costs, this voters' pamphlet is being mailed using bulk mail delivery sorted by ZIP code. This means that some residents who have a "Eugene" address or ZIP code may receive a pamphlet even though their residence is outside the city limits. We apologize for any confusion this may cause.

For questions about the voters' pamphlet, please call the Eugene City Manager's Office at 541-682-5010.

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VOTER INFORMATION

Lane County Elections Official Ballot Dropsites

Ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 5, 2019.

Dropsites open October 17, 2019.

Eugene Dropsites Open 24 Hours

Lane County Elections

275 W. 10th Ave., 97401

Enter from Lincoln St.

Amazon Pool

2600 Hilyard St., 97405

Bethel Library

1990 Echo Hollow Rd., 97402

Pearl Street

777 Pearl St., 97401

*On Pearl St. between
7th and 8th aves.*

Juvenile Justice Center

2727 MLK Jr. Blvd., 97401

Lane County Public Works

3050 N. Delta Hwy., 97408

*Parking lot in front of
Customer Service Center*

**River Road Park &
Recreation Center**

1400 Lake Dr., 97404

*On south island in
parking lot off Lake Dr.*

Sheldon Library

1566 Coburg Rd., 97401

University of Oregon

Erb Memorial Union, 97403

*Outside, on south side of
circular plaza*

Wal-Mart

4550 W. 11th Ave., 97402

North side of parking lot

Other Dropsites Open 24 Hours

Coburg City Hall

91136 N Willamette St. 97408

Junction City Library

726 Greenwood St. 97448

Contact us: Lane County Elections

275 W. 10th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4234

www.lanecounty.org/elections

Public Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - noon, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Election Day: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.



VOTER INFORMATION

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTERING TO VOTE

To vote in Oregon, you must be registered in the county where you reside.

You can register if you can answer “yes” to these three questions:

- Are you a resident of Oregon?
- Are you a U.S. citizen?
- Are you at least 16 years of age?

If you are 16 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

HOW TO REGISTER

You can register to vote at any of the following places:

- online at www.oregonvotes.gov
- any Oregon county elections office
- the Secretary of State's Office
- some state agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles
- a voter registration drive

To vote in the November 5, 2019, Election, your completed voter registration card must be:

- postmarked by Tuesday, October 15, 2019;
- delivered to a county elections office by Tuesday, October 15, 2019;
- delivered to any voter registration agency (e.g. DMV) by Tuesday, October 15, 2019; or
- submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER

To complete your registration, you must provide your:

- full legal name
- home address
- date of birth
- signature
- valid identification

UPDATING YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

You are responsible for keeping your information up-to-date. Changes can be made online at www.oregonvotes.gov or by completing and returning a voter registration card with your new information.

You should update your registration if you do any of the following:

- change your home address
- change your mailing address
- change your name
- change your signature
- change or select a political party
- anticipate being away from home on election day

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Any registered voter who will be **temporarily** out of the county, state, or country may apply for an absentee ballot. By law, ballots cannot be forwarded. You may request an absentee ballot from Lane County Elections by applying in person, by mail, or by fax at 541-682-2303. Applications are available on the Lane County Elections web site at www.lanecounty.org/elections.

Your voted ballot must be received by Lane County Elections or at an official drop site by 8:00 p.m. on election day. Postmarks will not be considered.

Call Lane County Elections at 541-682-4234 or visit www.lanecounty.org/elections for more information.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m. - noon and 1-4 p.m.; Election Day: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 20-302

How to Cast Your Vote

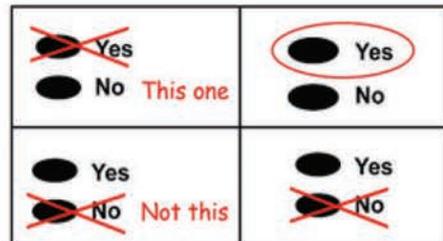
1. Mark Your Ballot

- Fill in the oval next to your choice with a black or blue ink pen.
- You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will be counted.

2. Check for Errors

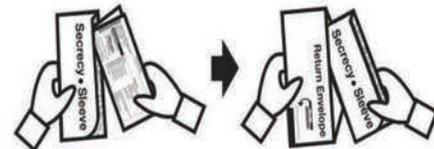
- If you make a mistake or change your mind while marking your ballot, you may correct it yourself. See examples:

- **Make your choice obvious** so that your intent is understood and your vote will be counted correctly.
- If you prefer, you may request a replacement ballot online from Lane County Elections at lanecounty.org/elections, or by calling 541-682-4234.



3. OPTIONAL Secrecy Sleeve

- Insert only your voted ballot into the Secrecy Sleeve.
- Insert your Secrecy Sleeve and ballot into your Return Envelope.
- **If we receive an envelope with more than one ballot inside, all enclosed ballots are rejected and not counted.**



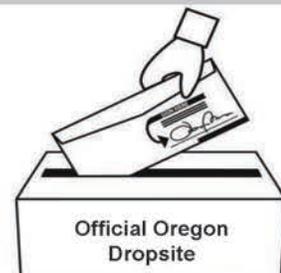
4. Sign Your Return Envelope

- The signature on your Return Envelope will be compared to your voter registration record. The signatures must match before your ballot can be counted.



5. Return Your Ballot

- To any official Oregon dropsite location. Postage is not required at dropsites.
- By mail. Postage is required. We recommend mailing at least 6 days before Election Day. **Postmarks do NOT count!**
- **All ballots must be received by 8pm on Election Day, November 5, 2019.**



BALLOT MEASURE NO. 20-302

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 20-302 REFERRED BY CITY OF EUGENE

CAPTION: Amends Charter: Caps rate, limits use of city's payroll tax

QUESTION: Shall Charter be amended to cap rate and limit use of revenues from payroll tax adopted by Council June 2019?

SUMMARY: This Charter amendment: 1) caps rate of any payroll tax imposed by City at 0.0021 on total wages paid by employers and 0.0044 on wages earned by employees; and, 2) limits use of payroll tax revenues to funding community safety services and tax administration.

Council adopted an ordinance imposing a payroll tax on employers located in the city and their employees. Ordinance generally imposes 0.0021 tax on employers' total paid wages, and 0.0044 tax on wages of most employees except those earning \$15/hour or less, who pay a lower rate or no tax. Ordinance limits using payroll tax revenues to: (a) community safety services, i.e., police services, fire/emergency medical services, municipal court services, prevention and homeless services; and, (b) tax administration. Ordinance went into effect July 2019; implementation after June 2020.

This Charter amendment does not approve/disapprove payroll tax, but does prohibit increasing payroll tax rates above 0.0021 (employer)/0.0044 (employee) or using payroll tax revenues for reasons other than funding community safety services or tax administration unless voters amend the Charter.

RESOLUTION NO. 5272

A RESOLUTION CALLING A CITY ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE LEGAL ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EUGENE A CHARTER AMENDMENT THAT CAPS THE RATE AND LIMITS THE USE OF THE CITY'S PAYROLL TAX.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds as follows:

A. Being safe, and feeling safe, is important to everyone. The City, through its community safety services, strives to make Eugene a safe and welcoming place for everyone to live, work, and do business.

B. The City's community safety services include the Eugene Police Department, the Eugene-Springfield Fire & EMS Department, Eugene Municipal Court, and multi-departmental efforts aimed at addressing and preventing homelessness. These City services provide the foundation needed to have accessible parks and natural resources, a prosperous economy, thriving arts and culture, and healthy, safe neighborhoods.

C. During the recession the City eliminated over 20% (\$30 million) of the general fund operating budget, primarily through efficiencies, reorganizations and trimming of some services. Recognizing the importance of providing safety services, during the recession and continuing today, the public safety budget has remained steady, at around 60% of the City's total general fund budget.

D. To better serve our community's expanding and changing public safety needs, the City has worked over the last five years to optimize available resources and become even more efficient in its provision of services. Programs such as the Community Outreach Response Team, Mental Health Court, and Community Court provide alternative paths out of the traditional public safety system, helping reduce overall demands on the system. Eugene-Springfield Fire implemented Basic Life Support response for non-life-threatening calls to the Fire Department and added an Advanced Life Support ambulance unit which has improved patient outcomes for some of the most critical emergency medical calls for service across both Eugene and Springfield. Increased CAHOOTS services provide

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 20-302

RESOLUTION NO. 5272 *(continued)*

mobile crisis intervention that responds to thousands of police calls for service every year providing critical behavioral health services. Using grant funding, Municipal Court was able to make improvements that reduced their case backlog by 20%. While all of these programs are positive additions to our community safety system, more needs to be done.

E. The community's need for safety services has continued to grow, outpacing City resources and resulting in critical gaps in the system. From 2014 to 2017, daily average calls for police services increased 21%, but staffing has remained flat. Homicide, rape, robbery, assault, sex offenses and family offenses have increased by 18% in that same time. Police response time has increased 86% from 23 minutes in 2014 to 42 minutes in 2017. Police are unable to respond to 1 in 3 non-life-threatening calls for service, an increase of 40%. Eugene Municipal Court handles 5,000 misdemeanor criminal cases (like theft, disorderly conduct, or driving under the influence) annually – second in the state to Multnomah County's Circuit Court. The number of unsheltered homeless adults in Eugene is significantly higher than in many other similarly-sized communities.

F. It is not just statistics that demonstrate the City's need for increased community safety resources; community members have said there is a need too. A survey of Eugene voters in July 2018 demonstrated that the community strongly supports addressing the City's public safety needs. A vast majority of survey respondents (84%) believe that City Officials should take steps to address issues that impact public safety. Follow-up community outreach confirmed the community's very real and growing concern for a delayed, or no, police response due to police resource levels.

G. Seeing the immediate, critical need for additional community safety services, in September 2018, the City Council approved spending \$8.6 million to add some limited capacity and maintain funding for several critical programs (often referred to as the "bridge funding"). When appropriating the bridge funding, the Council made clear its intent to find a long-term, sustainable funding source for the community safety system.

H. Without a new, permanent source of funds, the community safety services funded by the \$8.6 million bridge would have ended, and the gaps in the

system would have continued to widen. Specifically, response times would have kept getting longer, an increasing number of calls would have gone unanswered, a higher percentage of violations and citations would not have made it to the courts, safety concerns in parks, along pathways and in neighborhoods would have continued to go unsolved, the little time currently available for proactive policing would have dissipated, and fewer opportunities would have been available to move homeless community members onto paths of wellness.

I. Recognizing that approximately \$23.6 million per year is needed to make some of the systemic changes needed to alter the current trajectory of our community safety system, on June 10, 2019, the City Council adopted an ordinance imposing a payroll tax on employers and employees. The ordinance imposes 0.0021 tax on total wages paid by employers, 0.0015 tax on the first \$100,000 of wages pay by employers with two or less employees, 0.0030 tax on total wages earned by non-minimum wage employees making a wage of \$15.00/hour or less, no tax (0.0000 tax rate) on wages earned by minimum wage employees, and 0.0044 on total wages of all other employees. The ordinance also limits use of the payroll tax revenues to (a) community safety services (i.e., police services, fire and emergency medical services, municipal court and prosecution services, and prevention and homelessness services; and (b) administration of the tax. The City is working with the Oregon Department of Revenue to implement the City's payroll tax; payment of tax will not occur until after June 30, 2020.

J. The ordinance adopted by Council provides that revenues from the payroll tax will pay for the following package of community safety services:

- Police services, including 40 patrol officers, 5 detectives, 4 sergeants, 10 community service officers, 9.5 staff for 911, animal welfare and traffic safety officers, and evidence control and forensic analysts.
- Fire and emergency medical services, including the creation of a 911 triage program and field triage/community response unit.
- Municipal court and prosecution services, including opening third courtroom, expanding community court and mental health court programs and adding 10 jail beds and increased jail services.
- Prevention and homelessness services, including adding emergency shelters, a day center and funding after school programs at Title 1 schools.

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 20-302

RESOLUTION NO. 5272 *(continued)*

K. To fund the above-described package of services, the \$23.6 million will generally be allocated among the services as follows: 65% for police services; 10% for fire and emergency medical services; 15% for municipal court and prosecution services; and, 10% for prevention and homelessness services.

L. By using the \$23.6 million in payroll tax revenue to increase community safety services, the community can expect that, as the safety system ramps-up over the next one to five years, the following will occur:

- Faster and more responsive police services.
- Increased proactive community policing by sworn officers, achieved through the use of Community Response Units and Community Service Officers (CSOs) that can provide public safety support to assist with non-emergency calls like routine crashes and retrieving stolen property.
- Crime deterrence through the establishment of a 10-person Street Crimes Unit that will proactively deter crimes and increase officer presence in neighborhoods.
- Implementation of prevention efforts aimed at keeping people and youth off the streets, such as adding homeless services that help people stabilize and improve their lives, strengthening the network of support with nonprofit and medical organizations to help reduce the number of people who chronically use the system, and growing youth programs to engage and help at-risk youth, including after-school programs, 15th Night and inclusion programs.
- More people who commit crimes will be held accountable through the addition of detectives to investigate crimes, the opening of a third courtroom to resolve cases more quickly, the addition of more prosecutors, court appointed attorneys and court staff, and the increase in the number of jail beds and probation officers.

M. The City Council has determined that the voters should vote on capping payroll tax rates and limiting the use of payroll tax revenues to funding community safety services. If approved by the voters, the Charter amendment would prohibit (1) any increase in the payroll tax rates above 0.0021 for employers and 0.0044 for employees, and (2) any use of payroll tax revenues for reasons other than funding community safety services or tax administration without voters first amending the Charter.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the above findings,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the authority of subsection (3) of Section 2.971 of the Eugene Code, 1971, a city election is called for the purpose of referring to the legal electors of the City of Eugene an amendment to the Eugene Charter that states:

Any payroll tax imposed by the City is capped at 0.0021 on total wages paid by employers and 0.0044 on wages earned by employees. Revenues from a payroll tax imposed by the City may only be used to fund community safety services and administration of the tax.

Section 2. The City Council orders this special election be held in the City of Eugene, Oregon on the 5th of November, 2019, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 254 of the Oregon Revised Statutes, and the ballots shall be counted and tabulated and the results certified as provided by law.

Section 3. The City Recorder is directed to give not less than ten days' notice of the city election by publication of one notice in the Register Guard, a newspaper published in the City and of general circulation within the City.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The forgoing Resolution adopted the 10th day of June, 2019.

**/s/ Beth Forrest
City Recorder**

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 20-302

ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF BALLOT MEASURE 20-302

This amendment will place important limits on the recent City of Eugene payroll tax including locking in the current rates.

Background: The Eugene City Council recently enacted a payroll tax to pay for the cost of increasing police services, fire and emergency medical services, municipal court, and prevention and homeless services.

For several years, Eugene has not been able to dedicate enough money to keep up with population growth and an increasing number of calls for service. This has resulted in the inability to respond to non-emergency and nuisance calls, an overloading of the emergency response system, and the lowest number of police officers per capita in the state.

Acknowledging that the City's general fund is already too stretched to assist with fixing this problem, a new payroll tax mechanism was proposed by a special committee, made up of Budget Committee members and public representatives. Following a public hearing, the Eugene City Council adopted the proposed payroll tax with some revisions including exempting minimum wage workers from the tax and reducing the amount that workers earning under \$15.00 per hour would pay.

The City Council recognizes that important safeguards must be put in place to ensure the payroll tax cannot be taken advantage of for other purposes by a future city council. This is the purpose of the Charter amendment.

1. The Charter amendment caps the rate of the payroll tax to what it is now, including the considerations for lower wage workers, and it cannot be changed, unless voted on by the people.
2. The Charter amendment will ensure that any payroll tax revenue cannot be used for any purpose other than community safety services and tax administration, unless voted on by the people.

We urge a YES vote on this Charter amendment to ensure that the payroll tax can only be used for community safety and cannot be increased without a vote of the people.

**Prepared by Voters' Pamphlet Committee in
Support of Measure 20-302**

Eugene City Councilors Chris Pryor and Claire Syrett

This space provided in accordance with EC 2.994(1)(b).

**NO APPLICATIONS WERE SUBMITTED
FOR A VOTERS' PAMPHLET COMMITTEE
IN OPPOSITION TO
BALLOT MEASURE 20-302.**

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the City of Eugene, nor does the City of Eugene warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made.

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 20-302

**NO ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS WERE RECEIVED
IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO
BALLOT MEASURE 20-302.**



City of Eugene
125 East 8th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Lane County Public Service Building
Eugene, OR 97401

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

VOTE!

Special Election Date: November 5, 2019

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