

# Notice of Measure Election

3-576

SEL 802

rev 01/18 ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.275, 250.285, 254.095, 254.465

## City

### Notice

<b>Date of Notice</b> 08/24/2021	<b>Name of City or Cities</b> City of Oregon City	<b>Date of Election</b> 11/02/2021
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**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the city's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

AUTHORIZES THE CITY TO BORROW FUNDS FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall Oregon City be authorized to borrow up to \$38 million for water system improvements?

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

Oregon City's water system needs significant improvements, demonstrated by its water master plan. The plan identifies projects to strengthen the water system and improve its ability to recover from wildfire, major storms, and drought while providing safe, reliable water year-round.

The City seeks a balanced approach to fully fund the water system improvements minimizing rate increases above the 3% Charter limit by borrowing money. This measure would authorize Oregon City to borrow funds to support water system improvements. The City expects to repay the borrowed money over 20 to 30 years with water system revenues and may pledge its full faith and credit to improve the terms. This measure will not result in additional property taxes.

Voter authorization to borrow money will:

- Enable the City to apply for low interest federal and state loans
- Provide a large sum of money at one time, allowing projects to be completed earlier
- Allow future users to contribute resulting in a smaller annual water rate increase

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the city governing body; or

→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

**Explanatory Statement Attached?**  Yes  No

**Authorized City Official** Not required to be notarized.

<b>Name</b> Kattie Riggs	<b>Title</b> City Recorder / Elections Officer
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<b>Mailing Address</b> P.O. Box 3040, Oregon City, OR 97045	<b>Contact Phone</b> 503-657-0891
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*By signing this document:*

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the city to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and

→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature Redacted

8/24/2021  
Date Signed

# MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

3-576

## Keeping Oregon City's Water System Improvements Affordable by Borrowing

Oregon City updated its water master plan in January 2021. The plan identifies \$81 million in improvements to strengthen the water system and improve its ability to recover from wildfire, major storms and drought while providing everyone safe, reliable water for years to come.

Fully funding the fixes for Oregon City's water system requires voter authorization. Section 47 of the Oregon City Charter prohibits the City's voluntary borrowing more than \$25,000 without a vote of the people and Section 58 of the Oregon City Charter prohibits the City from issuing general obligation or revenue bonds without a vote of the people.

This measure would authorize Oregon City to borrow money to support water system improvements. The City expects to repay the borrowed money over 20 to 30 years with water system revenues and may pledge its full faith and credit to improve the terms. This measure will not result in additional property taxes.

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## Water System Issues

As the oldest city in the West, Oregon City still has some water pipes over 100 years old. Plus, another 12.6 miles of pipe is 50-100 years old – past its useful life, prone to failure. Old pipes can be replaced with modern, durable, earthquake-proof materials.

2020 provided evidence of vulnerabilities in Oregon City's water system:

- As wildfires swept toward Oregon City on Labor Day weekend, it wasn't clear there would be enough water to combat the fire threat.
- A few months later, in February 2021, combined ice and wind knocked out power to the South Fork water treatment plant – the City's water supply source on the Clackamas River. Without water supplies for 3 days, Oregon City relied on water stored in city reservoirs and tanks – which nearly ran dry.

Oregon City's limited water storage capacity can impact the City's ability to serve every customer equally during the dry season. Also, firefighting can consume large volumes of water, applied at high pressure. To meet these demands, Oregon City plans to build two more reservoirs or storage tanks, strategically located. This added storage will allow Oregon City to provide everyone safe, reliable drinking water – no matter where they are – even in summer months.

## New Development Pays its Share

Higher development fees enacted by the City Commission took effect July 1, 2021. These increases ensure that new development will pay its share of water system costs related to growth. In essence, new development must "buy-in", paying a one-time fee (called a system development charge) to purchase a portion of the City's capacity.

I'm the person submitting this Measure Explanatory Statement for the City of Oregon City.

*Kattie Riggs*

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Kattie Riggs, Election Official and City Recorder for the City of Oregon City