



Ballot Measure 4-148 Explanatory Statement

Ballot Measure 4-148 would allow Clatsop County to levy a property tax rate of 7 cents per \$1,000 assessed value each year for five years, beginning in 2011-12, for the operation and maintenance of the county fairgrounds and annual fair. For a home assessed at \$100,000, the yearly cost would be approximately \$7.

Currently, the Fair Board receives funding from three sources. It generates approximately \$150,000 from events held at the facility. The State of Oregon provides approximately \$40,000 a year in state lottery funds for holding a county fair. There is also the current tax levy that provides approximately \$350,000 a year. This levy expires after fiscal year 2010-11. This current levy request is a reduction of the existing levy, which is at 9 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The Fairgrounds does not receive any money from the county general fund and there is no money in the general fund to help support the Fairgrounds.

Since the 2006-07 fiscal year when the current tax levy began, the fairgrounds has made numerous improvements to the infrastructure of the facility. Some of them are as follows:

- Built cover over outside riding arena
- Purchased floor covering to enhance events held in the indoor arena
- Upgraded sound system
- Upgraded electrical
- Re-roofed office and old farmhouse
- Numerous landscaping projects
- Replaced three tide-gates that effect fairgrounds property

The fairgrounds has several projects currently in the works, including improved and increased parking, improved storage facility and improved arena bleachers. This tax levy will allow the fairgrounds to continue working on these projects and others.

In 2008-09 fiscal year an estimated 80,000 people attended 30 paid events, 48 4-H events and 25 free events at the fairgrounds. Some of the events include the Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival, Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Cross-Crusade Cyclo Cross Race, Blues by the Sea, numerous banquets and fund raising events and the annual fair. The fairgrounds also donates use of the exhibit hall for the annual Wishing Tree gift and food basket program for needy families in Clatsop County.

The Clatsop County Fair Board is a volunteer citizen committee charged by Oregon law with management of the fairgrounds and the county fair.

This measure would raise an estimated 365,220 in 2011-12, \$376,177 in 2012-13, \$387,463 in 2013-14, \$399,087 in 2014-15, and \$411,059 in 2015-16.