



MASON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX PROPOSITION

PROPOSITION

Local Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes

The Board of Mason County Commissioners adopted Resolution 41-19. Concerning a sales a use tax increase pursuant to RCW 82.14.450. If approved, this proposition would authorize Mason County to impose an additional sales and use tax of 0.3% split between Mason County (60%) and the City of Shelton (40%) as required by state law. Proceeds shall be used exclusively for criminal justice purposes in accordance with RCW 82.14.450.

Should this proposition be Approved / Rejected?
Require a simple majority of voter approval to pass

WHAT IS A PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX?

It is a local option tax authorized by Washington law. If approved by a majority of county voters, it would raise local sales taxes by three tenths of one percent (0.3%). Specifically, the income from the tax will support criminal justice purposes to include Jail services, District Court, Mental Health Peer and Re-entry Services, Pre-Trial Services, Public Defense, Court Clerks and the Prosecutors Office.

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

As we approach 2020, we find our Jail inmate capacity capped because the demand for incarceration has significantly overcome the Counties physical ability to safely and efficiently incarcerate prisoners without compromising their constitutional rights. To maintain current services, a jail staffing analysis revealed a 3.3 Corrections Deputy deficiency. These funds would also allow temporarily



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housing limited additional prisoners in alternate locations (outsourcing), which results in the need for 2 additional staff to satisfy increased demands on prisoner transporting and processing. Additionally, in line with the development of Alternatives to Sentencing and Therapeutic Courts in Mason County the Criminal Justice Departments would propose to increase the scope of those projects with Alternatives to Incarceration by utilizing Mental Health Peer and Re-Entry Services, Re-entry to Citizenship Programs and Pre-Trial Services. Subsequently, with the increase in alternative programs, additional staff will be needed by the Criminal Justice system to support the increased volume.

WHY NOW?

Long term, the County is researching the capacity of the current Jail Facility recognizing a need to build a new jail. Towards that end, the County is reviewing opportunities to build a new Regional Jail Facility with Grays Harbor County potentially reducing the overall cost to the citizens or in the alternative the possibility of a standalone County Jail Facility. This new money would begin the process of funding the additional staffing of the current facility and help offset personnel costs with a larger new Jail Facility.

In the short term, the County has acquired a building in the City of Shelton to relocate the County District Court from the County Superior Court Building. With this additional space, the Criminal Justice programs can expand to meet future needs as the obligations of the criminal justice system's needs increase, as well as offering Alternatives to Sentencing capabilities and Re-Entry to Citizenship Supportive Services thereby reducing recidivism rates.

HOW MUCH WOULD THE PUBLIC SAFETY TAX RAISE?

This sales tax would increase revenue by approximately \$1,300,000 for The County and \$800,000 for The City of Shelton.



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PROPOSED USE OF PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX REVENUE BY MASON COUNTY Expected Revenue \$1,300,000

Additional Correction Deputies +6 FTE's	\$430,000	33%	Corrections
Mental Health Peer & Reentry Svcs	\$200,000	16%	Courts
Jail Funding/Improvement Reserve	\$150,000	12%	Corrections
District Court +2 FTE	\$140,000	11%	Courts
Inmate Outsourcing	\$100,000	8%	Corrections
Pre Trial Services +1 FTE	\$ 80,000	6%	Courts
Public Defense Paralegal +1 FTE	\$ 70,000	5%	Public Defense
Clerk +1 FTE	\$ 70,000	5%	Courts
Prosecutor +.5 FTE	\$ 60,000	5%	Prosecutor

IS THIS RIGHT FOR MASON COUNTY?

The Mason County Public Safety and Criminal Justice Task Force recommended the Mason County Board of County Commissioners take a course of action that would generate additional funding sources to supplement the County Revenues and direct the additional revenue to Public Safety and Criminal Justice services.

The Mason County Criminal Justice Working Team Advisory Committee voted to recommend this proposal to the Mason County Board of County Commissioners as a preferred course of action to address Public Safety needs within the County.

The Mason County Citizens Budget Advisory Committee in its recommendations to the Mason County Board of County Commissioners made five recommendations to address the budget constraints on county Public Safety and Criminal Justice departments', one of which is to implement this sales tax.



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Only the voters of The County can make that decision. We need to remember that a portion of Mason County's sales tax revenue comes from other neighboring county's citizens and traveling tourists as a regional vacation destination with dramatic population increases in the spring, summer and fall months. The increase will represent an additional sales tax of \$3.00 for each \$1,000.00 of purchases.