

An amendment to the City of Ashland's Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance as proposed by petitioners has been requested to be placed on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 General Election for Jackson County.

CAPTION: Proposed Amendment to Ashland's Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance

QUESTION: Shall the ordinance be amended to dedicate most revenues received for parks and open space and extend the sunset date?

SUMMARY: The City of Ashland's current food and beverage tax ordinance requires that not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax collected be appropriated for the acquisition, planning, development, repair, and rehabilitation of City of Ashland parks. Up to two percent (2%) may be appropriated for the collection and administration of the tax. The remaining amount may be appropriated for street repair and rehabilitation and for parks.

This measure would require that not less than ninety-eight percent (98%) of the tax be appropriated for City parks. This measure would allow the tax to be used for parks operations and maintenance in addition to acquisition, planning, development, repair, and rehabilitation. It would extend the expiration date of the tax from December 31, 2030, to December 31, 2040. It would become effective upon approval of Ashland voters.

This measure would not change the current tax rate of five percent (5%) and provides that the tax rate and use of tax could not change without voter approval.

*Result of a "no" vote: Ashland's current ordinance language would remain in effect.*

Any objections to the ballot title must be filed with circuit court within seven (7) business days pursuant to ORS 250.296.