

Explanatory Statement: (Max 500 words).

The City of Salem is asking Salem voters to approve a \$300 million bond measure to fund projects to improve existing and build new streets, sidewalks, bike facilities, and parks; acquire fire engines and equipment; affordable housing; acquire sites for and construct two new fire stations; acquire sites for affordable housing and two branch libraries; construct earthquake safety improvements to the Civic Center and upgrade Peace Plaza; and upgrade information technology to provide cybersecurity for City infrastructure. If approved by voters, the bonds are not expected to increase current City of Salem bond tax rates. Bond proceeds would also pay for capitalized interest and costs of issuance.

City of Salem voters approved bonds from 2008 through 2017 for street improvements, a police station, and Salem Public Library seismic improvements. These funds allowed the City to build projects to serve residents. Since 2010, Salem's population has increased from 154,637 to 177,694 in 2021.

The City Council led a community engagement effort since December of 2021 to identify projects for the proposed bond measure. Project ideas came from outreach with neighborhood associations, advisory boards and commissions, civic interest groups, and public testimony.

Projects are expected to include construction of a portion of Marine Drive NW, upgrades to McGilchrist Street SE, Pringle Road SE, Fisher Road NE, and Davis Road SE, reconstruction of State Street, and construction of a Pringle Creek Trail Connection. Completion of the Union Street family-friendly bikeway. Four bridges that have weight restrictions due to their age and condition are proposed for repair/replacement. ADA Sidewalk improvements at multiple locations throughout the city. Approximately \$14.7 million would be dedicated to complete missing sections of sidewalks and sidewalk repair or replacement throughout the city. Funding is included for as many as seven pedestrian crossings.

Parks projects are expected to include: playground equipment replacement in several parks; coverings would be constructed at Bush's Pasture, Geer, Orchard Heights, and McKay School parks; restroom replacement at Bush's Pasture, Cascades Gateway, McKay School, Northgate, and Wallace Marine parks; new tennis and pickleball courts at Highland, Hoover, and River Road parks; additional sports fields at Geer, McKay, and Orchard Heights parks; construction of paved parking lots at Minto Brown Island park; replacing multi-use athletic courts at Hoover, Morningside and Sumpter parks, and;

Bond principal would not exceed \$300,000,000. Bonds may be issued in multiple series; each maturing within 30 years from issuance. The measure is not expected to increase Salem's bond tax rate above the current rate of \$1.20/\$1,000 of assessed value thanks to payments for existing bonds decreasing in the future. For a home assessed at \$200,000, the estimated property tax for the bonds for fiscal year 2022-

2023 would be approximately \$240 per year, or \$20.00 per month. Actual rates may vary based upon interest rates incurred and changes in assessed value.

Information Submitted by: ____ (name), ____ (title), City of Salem.