

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

A Resolution of Board of Commissioners of
Cowlitz County Providing for Submission)
to Voters within County at the November 5,)
2024 General Election, An Advisory Vote)
Asking Whether a Sales and Use Tax for)
Chemical Dependency or Mental Health)
Treatment Services or Therapeutic Courts at)
Rate of 1/10th of 1% per Cowlitz County)
Code Ch. 3.19 Should be Readopted and)
Reinstated; and Requesting Arguments be)
Included in the Voters' Pamphlet; and)
Establishing For and Against Committees;)
and Providing for Other Matters Thereto.)

RESOLUTION No. 24-037

WHEREAS, Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners (Board) pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 82.14.460, adopted Ordinance No. 12-170 and creating Cowlitz County Code (CCC) Ch. 3.19, imposing a sales and use tax equal to one-tenth of one percent of the selling price or one-tenth of one percent of the value of the article used for Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Treatment Services or Therapeutic Courts, expiring on the fifth year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 21-061 amending CCC Ch. 3.19 and extending the expiration date of this sales and use tax for Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Treatment Services or Therapeutic Courts only through March 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to determine the will of the electorate on this issue by placing an advisory vote on the November 5, 2024 general election ballot, and the question of whether the sales and use tax set forth in CCC Ch. 3.19 should be readopted and reinstated; and

WHEREAS, the Board will consider the results of this advisory vote in determining what action, if any, should be taken in relation to the aforementioned tax and county code; and

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.32.280 provides that for each measure from a unit of local government that is included in a local voters' pamphlet, the legislative authority of that jurisdiction shall, not later than 45 days before the publication of the pamphlet, formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners, as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The Board finds that the interests of the citizens of Cowlitz County would be best served by placing before the voters an advisory vote as part of the November 5, 2024 general election, asking those voters whether a sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts at a rate of 1/10th of 1%, set forth in Cowlitz

County Code Ch. 3.19 should be readopted and reinstated within Cowlitz County.

Section 2. Call of Election. The Board requests that the Cowlitz County Auditor, as *ex officio* the supervisor of a general election under RCW 29A.04.216, call and conduct an election to be held on November 5, 2024, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the County an advisory vote to advise the Board whether a sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts at a rate of 1/10th of 1% set forth in Cowlitz County Code Ch. 3.19 should be readopted and reinstated within Cowlitz County.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The Clerk of the Board is authorized and directed to certify, no later than August 6, 2024, to the Cowlitz County Auditor, a copy of this Resolution and the following advisory proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters at the general election, in substantially the following form:

COWLITZ COUNTY
GENERAL ELECTION - ADVISORY VOTE
SALES AND USE TAX FOR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY OR
MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OR THERAPEUTIC COURTS

The Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners is calling for an advisory election to determine whether a sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts at a rate of 1/10th of 1% set forth in Cowlitz County Code Ch. 3.19, should be readopted and reinstated within Cowlitz County.

Should a sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts at a rate of 1/10th of 1% be readopted and reinstated within Cowlitz County?

YES.....[]

NO.....[]

For purposes of receiving the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Clerk of the Board as the individual to whom such notice should be provided. The Clerk of the Board, in consultation with the Prosecuting Attorney, is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Auditor.

The Clerk of the Board is further authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this Resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener’s errors or clerical errors, references, resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers and reference thereto.

Section 4. Explanatory Statement. The explanatory statement specified in RCW 29A.32.241 shall be prepared and/or approved by the Prosecuting Attorney, who shall transmit the same to the County Auditor on August 6, 2024.

Section 5. Voters’ Pamphlet. In accordance with RCW 29A.32.280, the arguments advocating approval and disapproval of this advisory vote, ballot measure shall be included in the voters’ pamphlet and shall be prepared by committees appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Each committee shall be appointed by August 6, 2024 and shall submit appointment forms to County Auditor no later than on August August 6, 2024. Each committee shall be composed of

not more than three persons. If the Board fails to appoint committees by August 6, 2024, the County Auditor shall do so pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280. The committee advocating approval shall be composed of persons known to favor the ballot proposition and the committee advocating disapproval shall be composed of persons known to oppose the ballot proposition. Statements of the committee advocating approval and the committee advocating disapproval shall be submitted to the County Auditor no later than on August 13, 2024. The rebuttal statement of each committee shall be submitted to the Cowlitz County Auditor no later than on August 19, 2024.

DONE in open session, this 23rd day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Kelly Dombrowsky

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Kelly Dombrowsky, Clerk of Board

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

DocuSigned by:

Richard Dahl

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Richard Dahl, Chairman

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Arne Mortensen

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Arne Mortensen, Commissioner

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Dennis Weber

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Dennis P. Weber, Commissioner