

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ELECTORS A QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TAX LIMITATION SHOULD BE INCREASED BY 0.75 OF A MILL FOR TWENTY (20) YEARS, BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 1, 2005 TAX LEVY, TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY BY RENOVATING THE JAIL AND INCREASING JAIL CAPACITY, CONSTRUCTING A DISTRICT COURT AND RESIDENTIAL PROBATION CENTER AND PAYING FOR OPERATIONAL AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS FOR COUNTY JAIL INMATES

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 17, 2005

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County jail was built in 1978 with a capacity to hold 215 inmates; and

WHEREAS, over the years, as demand has increased, the County has taken a number of steps to increase capacity so that today, the jail's capacity is 332 inmates; and

WHEREAS, despite these measures, the jail remains chronically overcrowded thus resulting in the periodic early release of sentenced felons and misdemeanants; and

WHEREAS, the overcrowding at the jail has also thwarted attempts to implement jail internal programs and diversion programs; and

WHEREAS, ***the comprehensive plan requires the*** creation of a probation residential center and the alternative treatment of individuals with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, County Administration, along with the County Sheriff and the Criminal Justice Collaborative Council ("CJCC") have been studying the jail overcrowding problem; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this collaboration, the County Administrator, with the CJCC's unanimous support, has released "Draft Recommendations on Public Safety" which proposes that the following steps be taken to address the chronic jail overcrowding problem: (1) increase jail capacity to 532 inmates by 2014; (2) construct the 14-A District Court; (3) provide the judiciary with alternative sentencing options by constructing a probation residential center; (4) ***develop and implement mental health programs within the jail and services which will allow diversion of mentally ill individuals from the jail;*** and (5) retain the CJCC to continue its efforts to find recommended ways to improve the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this collaboration, the County Administrator, with the CJCC's unanimous support, has released the "Draft Recommendations on Public Safety," which proposes that the jail capacity be increased to accommodate 532 inmates by 2014; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the directives of the CJCC, the County intends to create a Probation Residential Center in Washtenaw County in order to provide a sentencing alternative within the defendants' own community; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the directives of the CJCC, the County intends to create mental health programs to serve inmates of the jail as well as programs for diversion of mentally ill offenders from the jail; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator and the Board of Commissioner intend to retain the CJCC in order to continue the efforts to discover and recommend ways to improve the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the "Draft Recommendations" proposes that these recommended strategies be financed by a millage increase of 0.75 of a mill for twenty years beginning with the December 1, 2005 tax levy with the ballot proposal for this millage to be placed before the Washtenaw County electors on February 22, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 0.75 of a mill will cost a taxpayer with a \$250,000 house (\$125,000 taxable value) \$93 annually; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, the County Administrator's Office and the Ways & Means Committee

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, State of Michigan, as follows:

1. The County Administrator's "Draft Recommendations on Public Safety" is adopted.
2. There shall be submitted to the electors of the County of Washtenaw at the Election to be held on February 22, 2005 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. prevailing time, the following proposition:

"Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed each year for all purposes on real and tangible personal property in Washtenaw County, Michigan be increased as provided in Section 6, Article IX of the Michigan Constitution and the Board of Commissioners of the County be authorized to levy a tax not to exceed three quarters of one mill (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation) on the taxable value of such property for a period of twenty years, beginning with the December 1, 2005 tax levy, (which will generate estimated revenues of \$9,600,000.00 in the first year) to enhance public safety by acquiring, constructing and renovating an upgrade and addition to the Washtenaw County jail, the 14-A District Court, **a** Probation Residential Facility, **and mental health diversion and treatment facilities**, and operating the jail and jail diversion programs designed to provide alternative rehabilitation for appropriate individuals?"

3. The election shall be held in accordance with Chapter XXVII, the General Election laws of the State of Michigan.
4. The Washtenaw County Clerk is instructed to carry out all appropriate statutory duties stated in this Resolution and the General Election laws of the State of Michigan so that the question of adoption may be submitted to the voters on February 22, 2005.
5. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners certifies to the County Clerk the following question as the appropriate ballot wording for the February 22, 2005 Election for the above-referenced proposition:

PROPOSITION TO INCREASE THE TAX LIMITATION TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY BY PROVIDING FUNDING TO RENOVATE THE JAIL AND INCREASE JAIL CAPACITY, CONSTRUCT A DISTRICT COURT AND RESIDENTIAL PROBATION CENTER AND PAY FOR OPERATIONAL COSTS RELATED TO THE JAIL AND JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAMS.

“Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed each year for all purposes on real and tangible personal property in Washtenaw County, Michigan be increased as provided in Section 6, Article IX of the Michigan Constitution and the Board of Commissioners of the County be authorized to levy a tax not to exceed three quarters of one mill (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation) on the taxable value of such property for a period of twenty years, beginning with the December 1, 2005 tax levy, (which will generate estimated revenues of \$9,600,000.00 in the first year) to enhance public safety by acquiring, constructing and renovating an upgrade and addition to the Washtenaw County jail, the 14-A District Court, a Probation Residential Facility, **and mental health diversion and treatment facilities**, and operating the jail and jail diversion programs designed to provide alternative rehabilitation for appropriate individuals?”

YES

NO

6. Each city and township clerk shall give appropriate notice of the submission of the Proposition as provided by law, which notice shall contain the statement of the Washtenaw County Treasurer as to previously voted tax limitation increases affecting property within Washtenaw County.

h: general/jail