



The City of
West Linn

22825 Willamette Drive
West Linn, Oregon 97068

Administration (503) 657-0331

September 29, 1987

Darlene Kenney, Elections Mgr.
Clackamas County Elections
825 Portland Avenue
Gladstone, Oregon 97027

Dear Ms. Kenney,

The following Ballot Title has been prepared for the City of West Linn's November 3, 1987 General Election Mail-In Ballot:

REFERENDUM ON WATER RATES
ORDERED BY THE PEOPLE

QUESTION: Shall Ordinance No. 1208, increasing monthly water rates for the City of West Linn be repealed?

EXPLANATION: Ordinance No. 1208 was adopted by the City of West Linn on August 26, 1987. It increases monthly water rates for all water users within the City except for low income users. It provides for graduated water rate increases through September 1, 1988. The water rate increases will be used to fund city-wide water system improvements.

If you have any questions please give us a call.

Sincerely,

Diana J. Nicolay
DIANA J. NICOLAY
City Recorder

djn9-87

1987 SEP 29 PM 12:16

**WEST LINN
WATER RATE
REFERENDUM
1987**

**CITY OF WEST LINN
22825 Willamette Drive
West Linn, Oregon 97068**

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WEST LINN RESIDENT

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED BY RATE INCREASE

PRIORITY II IMPROVEMENTS DESCRIPTION	COST
Willamette Falls Drive 20" Transmission Main - Phase I	723,000
Demolish Marylhurst Water Tower	17,000
Acquire land for a Horton II Water Reservoir	23,000
TOTAL PRIORITY I COSTS	763,000

PRIORITY III IMPROVEMENTS DESCRIPTION	COST
Willamette Falls Drive 20" Transmission Main - Phase II	423,000
Build Protective Cover Over Bolton Water Reservoir	480,000
Build a New Water Reservoir and Pump Station to serve the Willamette, Bland Circle and Tanner Creek Areas	765,000
Other System-Wide Repairs and Replacements	238,000
Replace Older Water Lines	1,694,000
TOTAL PRIORITY II COSTS	3,600,000

West Linn Water Rates

On August 26, 1987, West Linn City Council passed Ordinance No. 1208, raising monthly water rates. On September 23, a group of citizens petitioned to refer the increase to a vote of the people. On November 3, this issue will appear on your mail-in ballot. To help you make your choice, we offer the following information.

Why Were Rates Increased?

West Linn residents are well aware that the city's water system urgently needs improvement; the recent Citizen's Task Force report spotlighted those needs, identifying the "critical lack of pressure and volume" in the Rosemont District as the most pressing (Priority I). As well as pointing out physical problems, the Task Force named "lack of adequate funding and absence of an overall funding strategy" as the underlying cause. As part of their plan for a self-supporting water system, they recommended an immediate rate increase to establish a solid base for Priority II and III improvements, which include construction of the Willamette Falls Drive transmission main, a cover for the Bolton reservoir, a new pump station and reservoir to serve Willamette, Bland Circle and Tanner Creek, and various other construction, repair and replacement projects. Total cost of Priority II and III improvements is \$4,363,000. The Task Force advised that an immediate rate increase would allow funds to accumulate quickly enough to begin Priority II improvements in the 1989-90 fiscal year.

Rosemont projects were considered too crucial to wait for funds from the rate increase, so the Task Force recommended that they be funded immediately by an \$850,000 bond issue. Voters approved the bond measure on September 15, so Priority I construction will not be affected by the outcome of the water rate referendum.

Why A Referendum

Shortly after passage of the bond measure, a group of citizens filed a referendum petition, stating that West Linn citizens "ought to have a voice in the decision" to raise water rates, and that the increase is "pretty big... for the taxpayers to bear in one increase."* In fact, the increase adopted by City Council is approximately 29% less for residential users than the amount recommended by the Task Force, and is spread over a two-year period. (See box for details.)

What Happens if the Increase is Repealed?

West Linn's water system is already inadequate, with many parts in immediate need of repair or replacement. Lack of a solid financial base hurts the City's ability to respond quickly to water system needs. Current water system rates are insufficient even for maintenance; most capital improvements are out of reach. Without the increase there must be cutbacks in routine improvements, such as replacement of undersized and antiquated pipes, painting and lining of steel reservoirs, and pump station preventive maintenance. Priority II

* Quoted in *West Linn Tidings*, September 30, 1987.

improvements will not be made on schedule. The water system will continue to deteriorate faster than it is repaired, possibly setting up future problems as crucial as Rosemont's.

What's the Good News?

We see democracy in action through the referendum process. It is part of our system of governmental checks and balances; a way of keeping public officials in touch with the people's concerns. This referendum has given us an opportunity for a more thorough discussion of water system issues, resulting in better understanding and decision-making. The ballot measure asks, "Shall Ordinance No. 1208... be repealed?" The underlying question is, "Should water system improvements be stopped?" The city water system is important to all of us; it's our responsibility to answer wisely. Whatever your choice, make it known - don't forget to vote on November 3rd!

If you have any questions about the rate increase or water system improvements, call:

John Buol, City Administrator, 656-4519
William Gin, Finance Director, 656-3444

WATER METER/EDU TABLE SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF THE RATE INCREASE

Monthly Water Rates Before Increase		Task Force's Recommendation	City Council Water Rate Increase • Adopted by Ordinance # 1208 •			
Water Meter Sizes	Monthly Rate for First 500 Cu. Ft. 500 Water Usage		Total Rate Increase, Spread Over Two Years	% Difference More or (Less) than Task Force Proposed	First Increase Sept '87	Second Increase Sept '88
Residential/EDU's Commercial Users:	\$8.00	\$3.50	\$2.50	(29)%	\$1.50	\$1.00
5/8" & 3/4"	8.00	3.50	2.50	(29)	1.50	1.00
1"	9.45	3.50	3.05	(13)	1.80	1.25
1 1/4" & 1 1/2"	11.30	3.50	3.70	6	2.20	1.50
2"	13.85	3.50	4.40	26	2.65	1.75
3"	18.25	3.50	5.75	64	3.50	2.25
4"	24.50	3.50	7.75	121	4.75	3.00
6"	36.50	3.50	11.50	229	7.00	4.50
8"	48.50	3.50	15.25	336	9.25	6.00
10"	61.00	3.50	19.25	450	11.50	7.75

Note: The City's "Excess Water Usage Rate" (charge per 100 cu. ft. of water usage, over the first 500 cu. ft. used per month) was increased thirty (30) cents; the old rate was eighty (80) cents.



The City of
West Linn

22825 Willamette Drive
West Linn, Oregon 97068

Administration (503) 657-0331

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: John A. Buol, City Administrator 
DATE: October 7, 1987
SUBJECT: Tentative City Council Meeting

After discussions with the City's Finance Director, Willie Gin, and City Attorney, Jack Hammond, they have informed me that it may be necessary for the City Council to hold a special City Council meeting on November 4, 1987 if the citizens of West Linn approve the referendum scheduled to be voted on November 3, 1987. I have been advised, if the citizens approve the referendum or defeat the increase in the water rates, it will be necessary to have this special meeting.

We have scheduled a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 4, 1987 at 7:30 P.M. to implement a water rate increase if necessary.

At this meeting, the City Attorney will prepare an Ordinance re-establishing the rates before the scheduled increase of September 1, 1987.

This is a tentative meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 at 7:30 P.M.

/hlc
JB1087

NOV. 4, 1987 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES ATTACHED,
INCLUDING ELECTION RESULTS.

Minutes - Special City Council Meeting
7:30 P.M. West Linn City Hall

November 4, 1987
Establish Water Rates

Council Members Present: Thorn, Crabb, Cox, Mayor Lairson, Gates,
and Stowell

Council Members Absent: Clyman

Staff Members Present: John A. Buol, City Administrator, Diana J.
Nicolay, City Recorder, DeAnn Darling, City Attorney.

John Buol explained that the increased water rates voted in by the
Council on August 26, 1987, were voted down by the citizens of West
Linn in the election of November 3, 1987, so it was necessary to
adopt an Ordinance reinstating water user fee rates.

City Attorney, DeAnn Darling, further explained that the ordinance
before the Council would reinstate the same rates in effect prior
to the August 26th increase, and the ordinance would make the rates
effective November 3, 1987 so that the City would be able to charge
the original water rates straight through as if an increase had
never been approved. Darling explained that if the City Council
didn't adopt water rates, the City would be without water rates
because of the election.

There was some discussion, and Mayor Lairson read proposed
Ordinance No. 1220 by title.

Councilor Stowell made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1220, with
an effective date of November 3, 1987 as shown in the ordinance.
Cox seconded the motion.

John Buol added that the rates being proposed were originally
installed in December of 1982 or January of 1983.

A poll of the Council showed:

Ayes: Thorn, Crabb, Cox, Gates, and Stowell
Nays: None.

Mayor Lairson read Ordinance No. 1220 a second time by title.

Councilor Stowell made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1220,
effective November 3, 1987. Councilor Cox seconded the motion.

A poll of the Council showed:

Ayes: Thorn, Crabb, Cox, Gates, and Stowell
Nays: None.

John Buol explained that the water fund will be running in the red
if we don't increase the water rates, and that we need to increase
the rates for operational reasons. He said the proposed rate
increase would come before the Council at their November 25, 1987
regular meeting.

Councilor Stowell made a statement issuing a challenge to all
citizens who voted against the water rate increase to solve the
funding problem for needed water improvements that won't disappear
just because the increase was voted down. Stowell also thanked all
affirmative voters for their support.

The special meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Diana J. Nicolay, City Recorder

STATEMENT OF VOTES CAST
11/05/87
10:48

CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON
SPECIAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 1987

ISSUE 2

JOHN F. KAUFFMAN, COUNTY CLERK

.....
* I CERTIFY THAT THE VOTES RECORDED ON THIS ABSTRACT CORRECTLY * BY : *Darlene Kenney Deputy* * DATE OF ABSTRACT :
* SUMMARIZE THE RESULT OF VOTES CAST AT THE ELECTION INDICATED. * * NOV 6 1987 *
.....

CITY OF WEST LINN
MEASURE 3-6
REFERENDUM ON WATER RATES

YES

	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL
022	313	039	240	109	482	115	186	117	276	131	229	132	189	133	394	
VOTES CAST =	2,309															

NO

	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL
022	167	039	161	109	331	115	132	117	132	131	138	132	130	133	272	
VOTES CAST =	1,463															

OVERVOTES

	PRE	TOTAL														
022	0	039	0	109	0	115	0	117	3	131	0	132	0	133	1	
VOTES CAST =	4															

UNDERVOTES

	PRE	TOTAL														
022	7	035	2	109	12	115	2	117	6	131	6	132	7	133	8	
VOTES CAST =	50															

TOTAL VOTES

	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL	PRE	TOTAL
022	487	039	403	109	825	115	320	117	417	131	373	132	326	133	675	
VOTES CAST =	3,826															