

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF CALLING FOR AN ELECTION WITHIN SPOKANE COUNTY TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023, AND SUBMITTING TO ELECTORS A PROPOSITION TO IMPOSE A TWO-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.2%) SALES AND USE TAX EQUAL THROUGHOUT SPOKANE COUNTY, AS AUTHORIZED BY RCW 82.14.450, THE PROCEEDS TO BE USED BY THE COUNTY, CITIES AND TOWNS WITHIN SPOKANE COUNTY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PURPOSES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, Spokane County, Washington is a class A county duly organized and existing (“County”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.01.030, the powers of the County can only be exercised through the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington (“Board”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board has the care of the County property and management of county funds and business; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 82.14.450, a county legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to county voters at a primary or general election, and if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of chapter 82.14 RCW, in an amount up to three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax; and

WHEREAS, money received under this sales and use tax shall be shared between the county and the cities as follows: Sixty (60) percent shall be retained by the county and forty (40) percent shall be distributed on a per capita basis to cities (including towns) in the county; and

WHEREAS, one-third of all money received under this tax shall be used solely for criminal justice purposes, fire protection purpose, or both. For the purposes of this tax the term "criminal justice purposes" shall have the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.14.340, which defines “criminal justice purposes” as “...activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice system occurs, and which includes domestic violence services such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and

legal advocates as defined in RCW 70.123.020. After May 13, 2021, and through December 31, 2023, “criminal justice purposes” includes “local government programs which have a reasonable relationship to reducing the numbers of people interacting with the criminal justice system including, but not limited to, reducing homelessness, or improving behavioral health.” The remaining portion of the revenues received from the tax shall be used for such purposes as are set forth in the ballot proposition. The retail sale or use of motor vehicles, and the lease of motor vehicles for up to the first thirty-six months of the lease, are exempt from the tax imposed under RCW 82.14.450; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above-cited statutory provisions, on August 6, 2019 the qualified electorate within the County approved a ballot measure authorizing the renewal of a of a sales and use tax authorized under terms of RCW 82.14.450, commencing April 1, 2020, and running until December 31, 2029, in an amount equal to one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) (the “2019 Sales and Use Tax”). One-third of all money received under the 2019 Sales and Use Tax shall be used solely for criminal justice purposes. For the purposes of this tax the term "criminal justice purposes" shall have the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.14.340, and include but not be limited to, additional police protection, mitigation of congested court systems, or relief of overcrowded jails or other local correctional facilities. The remaining portion of the 2019 Sales and Use Tax is to be used for public safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, the County and other cities/towns within the County continue to need additional financial means to address police (sheriff) protection, mitigate congested court systems, relieve overcrowding jails and other correctional facilities, as well as addressing public safety issues/concerns and improving behavioral health. The County and cities/towns within the County do not have any other viable means or have limited means of increasing revenue to meet these responsibilities; and

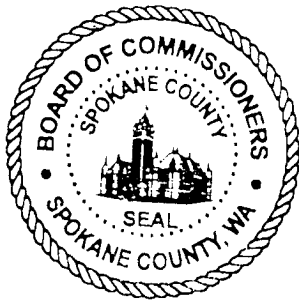
WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is appropriate and necessary for the public welfare and in the best interests of the citizens of the County to ensure that adequate financial resources are available for criminal justice and public safety purposes. In order to achieve this purpose, and in light of RCW 29A.04.321 setting forth the dates for elections, the Board desires to place before the electorate of the County the question of whether the County should impose the remaining two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) sales and use tax as authorized under RCW 82.14.450 for criminal justice, public safety, and behavioral health purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, pursuant to RCW 82.14.450, that the Board does hereby request a ballot proposition substantially in the form set forth in Attachment "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, be submitted to the qualified electorate of Spokane County at the general election to be held November 7, 2023, and that the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County be and is accordingly instructed to notify the Spokane County Auditor, Supervisor of Elections, of such fact, and to request said Auditor and Supervisor to call and conduct said Election in the manner provided by law, and to submit that ballot proposition as set forth in Attachment "A" hereto in the form of a ballot title substantially as set forth in said Attachment.

The proper County officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the ballot proposition described in this resolution shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the November 7, 2023 election.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of December, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON



ATTEST:

ABSENT

MARY L. KUNEY, Chair

AL FRENCH, Vice-Chair

Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

JOSH KERNS, Commissioner

ATTACHMENT "A"

MEASURE NO. ____

SPOKANE COUNTY

**TWO-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX
FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
PURPOSES**

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SPOKANE COUNTY,
WASHINGTON, ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 22-____ CONCERNING A SALES AND
USE TAX INCREASE PURSUANT TO RCW 82.14.450.**

**IF APPROVED, THIS PROPOSITION WOULD AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY TO
IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL 0.2% COUNTY-WIDE SALES AND USE TAX,
COMMENCING APRIL 1, 2024, AND TERMINATING DECEMBER 31, 2054, THE
PROCEEDS TO BE USED BY THE COUNTY, CITIES AND TOWNS WITHIN SPOKANE
COUNTY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
PURPOSES, AS PROVIDED IN RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____.**

SHOULD THIS PROPOSITION BE APPROVED?

YES..... []
NO..... []