



July 14th, 2023

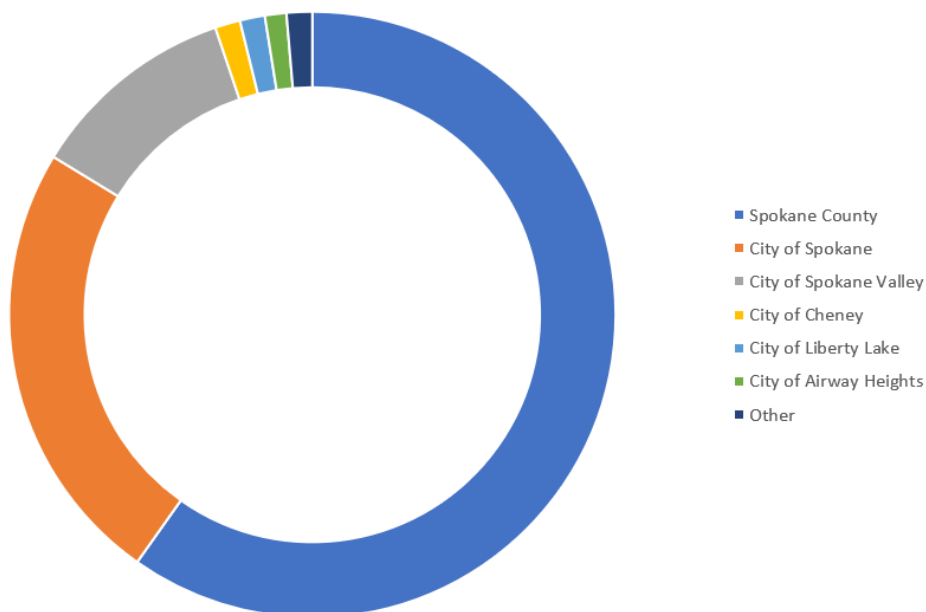
Proposal to Defer Ballot Measure No. 1

Commissioners Chris Jordan and Amber Waldref have requested that the Board of County Commissioners consider deferring Measure No. 1 - a ballot proposition related to public safety, criminal justice, and behavioral health, commonly referred to as the jail ballot measure – from the November 2023 General Election until the August 24, 2024 Primary Election. The Auditor’s Office must be notified by August 17, 2023 if the Board decides to defer the measure. Commissioners Jordan and Waldref have prepared a draft resolution which would defer the measure to allow time to better address the following:

- Regional Planning: Planning and coordination between the County and the cities and towns within Spokane County, to develop collaborative agreements, shared priorities, and to present affordable, effective investments to voters across our region, and to build upon ongoing regional conversations to shape strategies to reduce homelessness.
- Prioritization of Program Investments and System Reforms: Further definition, refinement, and prioritization of investments in criminal justice reforms, public safety interventions, behavioral health programs, and maintenance and operational needs, with applicable cost estimates and implementation plans.
- Review of Bed Projections: Further analysis of the projected need for detention bed capacity, to provide the public with confidence that proposed detention facility improvements are constructed to an accurate and affordable size, based on widely accepted jail forecasting methods. The County has currently proposed an additional 538 to 666 inmate beds, conflicting with past consultant projections, with an estimated cost of \$540 million for the proposed new facilities.
- Wide Public Engagement: Consultation with a wide range of community members and stakeholders, whose feedback and input should be used to inform and prioritize Measure No. 1 financial models and funding priorities.

Measure No. 1 Background

Measure 1 Revenue Distribution



Measure No. 1 was placed on the November 2023 ballot by the Board of County Commissioners in December of 2022. If approved by voters, the measure would raise sales and use taxes in Spokane County by two tenths of one percent (0.2%) for thirty years. \$1.75 billion in new sales and use tax revenues would be generated for local governments in Spokane County, with the County collecting 60% and the cities and towns retaining 40% (approximately \$700 million) on a per capita basis.

Revenues from the measure would be used to construct two new detention facilities and retire the aging Geiger Corrections Center, as well as for other criminal justice, public safety, and behavioral health purposes. The County's current estimate is that the cost of constructing these facilities would be approximately \$540 million.

For more information, please contact our offices:

Chris Jordan
Spokane County Commissioner, District 1
Cell: (509) 998-0461 | Office: (509)477-7564
cjordan@spokanecounty.org

Chrissy Loe
Governmental & Constituent Relations Officer
Spokane County Commissioner Chris Jordan, District 1
Cell: (509)867-4187 | Office: (509)477-7564
cloe@spokanecounty.org

Amber Waldref
Spokane County Commissioner, District 2
Cell: (509) 998-0195 | Office: (509)477-2265
awaldref@spokanecounty.org

Amy Fair
Governmental & Constituent Relations Officer
Spokane County Commissioner Amber Waldref, District 2
Cell: (509)867-8650 | Office: (509)477-7532
afair@spokanecounty.org