

View

Edit

Revisions

Clone content

## November 2007 Special Election

**Election Date:** November 6, 2007

**Final Official Results**

 [sample.ballot.1107.pdf](#)  
 [lincoln.vp\\_.1107.pdf](#)  
[Oregon State Voters' Pamphlet](#)

**Total Number of Votes:** 17,065  
**Approximate % Counted:** 100.00%  
**Turnout:** 66.88%

The following election results are for the November 6 Special Election in Lincoln County, Oregon. These results will first be posted at approximately 8:00 p.m. on November 6, and updated throughout the night until all of the votes have been counted. **These results are now final and official.**

### Results

Show All Results

Hide All Results

Click on any item to see election results

**49 State Measure - Modifies Measure 37**

**50 State Measure - Increases Tobacco Tax**

**21-119 Lincoln County - Increases Room Tax to 9%**

Yes		10107
No	<a href="#">edit</a>	6665

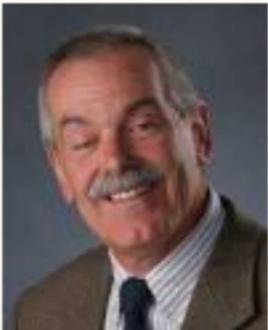
**21-117 Yachats Rural Fire - Local Option Tax**

**21-118 City of Newport - Proposed New Charter**

**21-120 Beverly Beach Water - General Obligation Bond**

Save

[Return to Election History](#)



## Ballot Title

# 21-119

**Increases Lincoln County transient lodging tax from 6% to 9%**

**Question:** Shall County lodging tax be increased three cents per dollar, with revenues dedicated for use by County, Aquarium, and fairgrounds?

**Summary:** Since 1991, Lincoln County has levied a 6% tax on transient lodging. It is paid by tourists, business travelers and other visitors. Currently, 1/6 of the tax revenues are dedicated to tourism promotion and economic development. This measure would increase the transient room tax by three cents per dollar, from 6% to 9%. By state law, lodging operators keep 5 percent of the tax as a collection charge. The remainder of the new tax revenues would be allocated as follows: 40 percent to a Fairgrounds Facilities Improvement Fund, 30 percent for ongoing operating support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and 30 percent to the County general fund. Lodging within incorporated cities would be exempt from the County lodging tax, and instead subject to city lodging tax. A "Yes" vote increases the County transient lodging tax to 9%. A "No" vote keeps it at 6%.

## Explanatory Statement

Lincoln County first imposed a transient lodging tax of 5% in 1978. It is paid by tourists, business travelers and other visitors.

In 1991, Lincoln County voters approved an increase of the tax to 6%, with the additional 1% dedicated to tourism promotion and economic development. By state law and county ordinance, lodging operators keep five percent of the tax as a collection charge.

In fiscal year 2006/07 (July 2006 through June 2007), the 6% County transient lodging tax generated \$1,118,544 in revenue.

This measure would increase the County transient room tax an additional 3%, from 6% to 9%, effective January 1, 2008. The new tax revenue would be allocated as follows: 40 percent to a Fairgrounds Facilities Improvement Fund, 30 percent for ongoing operating support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and 30 percent to the County general fund.

It is estimated that this tax increase would generate approximately \$560,000 in additional revenue per year. As described in the distribution formula above, the division of that new revenue would result in approximately \$224,000 for the Fairgrounds Facilities Improvement Fund, \$168,000 for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and \$168,000 for the County general fund.

Under this measure, lodging within incorporated cities would be exempt from the County lodging tax, and instead subject to city lodging tax.

A "Yes" vote increases the County transient lodging tax to 9%. A "No" vote keeps it at 6%.

*(This information submitted by Rob Bovett, Assistant County Counsel, Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.)*

**Argument statements  
for this measure  
begin on next page** →

# Measure 21-119 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

### **Please Vote YES! On Measure 21-119 for the Oregon Coast Aquarium**

More than twenty years ago, Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation volunteers worked hard to make the Oregon Coast Aquarium a reality. In 1992, it opened to rave reviews.

Since then, the Aquarium has become a nationally-ranked “top ten” facility, and is a significant asset to Lincoln County, enhancing our quality of life. The Aquarium has 15,000+ sea creatures, providing more than 70 local jobs.

Twice a year, the Aquarium offers ‘discount days’ for County residents. The Aquarium provides more than a thousand local students hands-on marine education, and offers all of us a place to come to relax, a place to enjoy animals we might never see in the wild, fun for family and friends who visit.

Feeding the 15,000 animals at the Aquarium is terribly expensive—it costs \$7 million to run our Aquarium every year. **Voting YES!** for Measure 21-119 would help support the Oregon Coast Aquarium with much-needed lodging tax dollars paid by those visiting the county. **Voting YES!** can also help build a multi-use facility at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds for 4-H events, and local groups. The remainder of this “visitor tax” will be used for county services needed by visitors, such as law enforcement, and road maintenance.

The proposed increase in Lincoln County’s transient room tax applies only to hotel/motel/bed and breakfast rooms, and campsites in the “unincorporated” areas, or more simply put, areas outside of all the cities in Lincoln County.

**Only those staying in lodging properties, vacation rental dwellings, or at campgrounds outside our cities will pay this tax if it is passed.**

**Please support your Oregon Coast Aquarium by voting YES! with us on Measure 21-119.**

*The Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation, including:*

William Bain  
John Baker  
David Bigelow  
Mark Bryan  
Chris Chandler DiTorrice  
Mark Collson  
Doug Hunt  
Phillip Hutchinson  
Tim Johnson  
Larkin Kaliher  
Don Mann  
David Miller  
Pat O’Connor  
Tom Rinearson  
Bonnie Saxton  
Dale Schmidt

*(This information furnished by Chris Chandler DiTorrice,  
Yaquina Bay Economic Development Foundation  
Political Action Committee.)*

*The printing of any arguments do not constitute an endorsement by the County of Lincoln, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the arguments.*

## Argument in Favor

As “ pre-aquarium” Lincoln County residents, we have had not only the chance to help the Oregon Coast Aquarium come into existence, but also to see countless ways the Oregon Coast Aquarium has benefited Lincoln County.

My wife Dolores and I are very happy to have observed the leverage of lodging taxes from the City of Newport City help an underfunded operation provide community outreach. Now we have the opportunity for the County in general, to help the Aquarium achieve its goals of providing a first-rate facility, which can serve not only the visitors, but also Lincoln County residents as well.

We ask all Lincoln County residents to join us in supporting our wonderful community facility, the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

C. Norman Winningstad  
Founding Board Member,  
Oregon Coast Aquarium

*(This information furnished by C. Norman Winningstad,  
Dolores C. Winningstad.)*

*The printing of any arguments do not constitute an endorsement by the County of Lincoln, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the arguments.*

# Measure 21-119 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

**Please support the Oregon Coast Aquarium by voting YES on Measure 21-119**

Since its opening in 1992, the Oregon Coast Aquarium has drawn millions of visitors to Lincoln County. The Aquarium was recently recognized by three national publications as being one of the top 10 aquariums in the country.

But the Aquarium is also a part of the Lincoln County Community. Residents are eligible for discount “dollar admission days”. The Aquarium currently provides Lincoln County students with a variety of learning experiences for greatly reduced or no fees. It also serves as the location for local nonprofit fundraising events such as the annual “Oyster Cloyster” supporting the Oregon Coast Community College.

The Aquarium has some 70 employees; hundreds of dedicated volunteers; and over 15 thousand sea creatures including sea otters, seals, sea lions, and a variety of birds as well as thousands of fish and invertebrates. Feeding and caring for all of these animals takes a considerable amount of money, and this is only partially covered by the Aquarium’s relatively modest admission fees.

Measure 21-119 will provide the Aquarium with a needed source of reliable annual funds. The proposed increase in Lincoln County’s transient room tax would apply only to hotel, motel, bed and breakfast rooms, vacation rental dwellings, as well as campsites in the *unincorporated (outside of city limits)* areas of Lincoln County. **Only those people renting a room or campsite outside of our cities would pay this increase in tax, typically only a few dollars per day.**

Respectfully submitted by Dave and Julie Shafer, who reside in Siletz Keys. Dave and Julie are both volunteers at the Aquarium. Dave serves on the Aquarium’s Board of Directors and Julie is an Interpreter working with the birds and other animals.

*(This information furnished by Julie A. Shafer, David L. Shafer.)*

## Argument in Favor

**Please Vote YES! on Measure 21-119 for the Oregon Coast Aquarium**

Dear Lincoln County Voters,

Like many Oregonians, the Paulus family is pleased at how the Oregon Coast Aquarium has positively impacted Lincoln County’s economy, science education efforts, and image.

The Aquarium has been ranked as one of the top ten aquariums in the United States for three years running and continues to make Lincoln County residents proud.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium’s mission to inspire others to cherish Oregon’s ocean has reached over nine million visitors and residents since opening day fifteen years ago and it has become a vital source of marine science education for the county and the state. It is exciting to be a part of an organization that has 400 volunteers committed to educating everyone about our ocean, and how humans can enjoy and protect it.

The Aquarium is currently partnering with Lincoln County School District, Oregon State University, and Oregon Coast Community College, to develop critical ocean science education programs which will serve as models for the rest of the nation. To date, hundreds of thousands of Oregon school children have visited the Aquarium or been visited by the Oregon Coast Aquarium Outreach team. As the former Superintendent of Public Instruction in Oregon, I witnessed the need for these vital science education efforts. I know you will join me in my desire to insure our children know, understand, and cherish our wonderful Oregon Coast for generations to come.

The proposed room tax increase applies only to the “unincorporated” areas—areas outside of all cities’ limits—in Lincoln County. **Only those staying in vacation rental dwellings, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and campgrounds outside our cities will pay this tax if it is passed.**

Sincerely,

*Norma Paulus  
Former Oregon Secretary of State  
Former Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction  
The Paulus Family has owned property in Lincoln County since 1938*

*(This information furnished by Norma Paulus,  
Oregon Coast Aquarium.)*

*The printing of any arguments do not constitute an endorsement by the County of Lincoln, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the arguments.*

**There were no arguments filed against this measure.**