



City of Tigard Press Release

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Early Results Show Tigard Voters Have Rejected Proposed Gas Tax Hike

Preliminary and still unofficial election results from the Washington County Elections Office show a majority of Tigard voters have rejected Ballot Measure 34-256. The measure would have raised the city's local gas tax by 5 cents a gallon.

“Our hope was to continue to improve our street maintenance with a fuel tax that spread the cost burden beyond just city residents, but Tigard voters have had their say,” said Mayor John L. Cook. “There’s a scheduled increase in the city’s Street Maintenance Fee that will go into effect on January 1 just to keep up with routine maintenance on our streets.”

The Street Maintenance Fee (SMF) is a charge paid by Tigard residents and businesses on their monthly utility bill. The fee is used primarily to fund routine maintenance of Tigard’s roads through the Pavement Management Program. In addition the SMF pays for landscape maintenance in the public right-of-way.

Because Tigard voters rejected an alternative means of raising funding for street maintenance, the SMF for Tigard residents and businesses will change on Jan. 1, 2017 as shown below:

- Residential/multifamily customers: The \$5.30 fee will increase to \$6.56 per billing statement.
- Non-residential customers: The monthly fee will increase 29 cents per required parking space; from \$1.86 to \$2.15 per space.

The City Council approved the new fee schedule in March 2016, to be implemented in July 2016 and again in January 2017. In July 2016, the fee for residential customers dropped \$1.09, to \$5.30 a month. For non-residential customers (businesses), whose fees are assessed on required parking spaces for their facilities, the monthly fee increased by \$1.44, to \$1.86 per space.

This difference reflects upcoming projects scheduled in the pavement management program that emphasize road work in commercial areas. The changes will fund maintenance of one of the city’s key pieces of infrastructure—roads.

More information about Tigard’s street maintenance program can be found on the city’s website at: www.tigard-or.gov/smf

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