

# Salem Voters to Decide on Five Million Dollars Worth Of Public Improvements on Primary Election Ballot

By ROBERT E. GANGWARE  
City Editor, The Statesman

Salem city voters going to the polls Friday will come face to face with a yes or no choice on five million dollars' worth of public improvements as proposed by the City Council.

These projects, grouped under nine separate bond issues or special taxes, generally reflect a growing city's needs as seen by the elected City Council. They extend from a West Salem branch library to a big new water supply line from the North Santiam River.

They include, briefly, proposals for additional water supply line, new parks and park improvements, replacement of wood bridges, street widenings, a fire alarm system and additional firemen, library, remodeling and airport improvement.

**No Burning Issue**

None of these has become a burning public issue. In fact, the entire city ballot has figured only quietly this campaign season, with the single exception of the inflammatory fluoridation issue.

Although no opposition campaign has formed to fight any of the special finance measures on their merits, many a voter has asked about the costs of the improvement program.

A complete estimate of a taxpayer's costs would require a tax accountant with six sharp pencils to compute, because of the complication of how bond issues are paid off over varying periods of years.

**Figure Computed**

But city officials have estimated that passage of all finance measures on the ballot would add 4 1/2 mills to the city tax rate, on top of an estimated 2 1/2-mill increase in the general budget which doesn't have to be voted on.

Thus, the highest total city tax increase possible would figure out

matter of cost of the biggest project on the entire ballot—a \$3,750,000 bond issue to increase the tax to 58 or 59 for the taxpayer who now pays \$100 on his Salem property.

The city tax levy of the past year was 24.7 mills. School and county taxes brought the total tax to 97 mills. The assessed valuation on which a \$100 tax was levied would have been \$1,030.

Not all of the picture is in new costs to taxpayers. Two of the finance proposals would actually lead to savings for most taxpayers. These are the \$45,000 bond issue for a fire alarm system and related improvements, and a \$37,000 new annual tax (about one mill) for additional firemen.

**Reduced Premiums**

This tax cost would be more than offset by reduced fire insurance premiums, city officials have been assured. The fire department changes were planned to win for Salem the next highest fire insurance rating. This would mean an estimated reduction of premiums of \$150,000 a year. On dwellings the reduction would amount to about 9 per cent.

The Salem Chamber of Commerce, leading group advocate of the city finance measures, has expressed the position that passage of all the issues would be "good business." Chamber speakers have told many groups that the city's ability to attract new industrial payrolls and to serve as center of a growing trade area depends on keeping municipal facilities up to date, with capacity to serve growing population.

Here are the money issues up for vote:

**WATER BONDS**—This proposed \$3,750,000 bond issue would pay for a new (second) water supply from

the Santiam River at Stayton to Turner Reservoir and from there into Salem, plus additional infiltration facilities at Stayton Island. Capacity would be 30 million gallons of water a day, bringing total capacity to 75 million.

City officials have considered this the top priority project of the present. An independent engineering study by Clark, Groff & Cave said "the water supply of the city was reduced to a dangerous minimum" in August, 1955, adding, "with the continued increase in Salem's growth, a similar dry period in future years will be certain to exceed all water production and cause serious shortages."

**PARKS AND PARK DEVELOPMENT**—Two related ballot issues cover parks—a \$700,000 bond issue and a \$35,000 annual special tax (about one mill).

Spending of the money would require City Council action, but the projected plans call for purchase of 375 acres in four new park sites for about \$250,000, with the remaining \$450,000 bond issue money for developing these sites and improving present parks. The annual tax would provide for the additional upkeep costs.

Two of the tentative plans of considerable interest call for a new outdoor swimming pool at Bush's Pasture and eventually a municipal golf course on the old McNary Farm parksite out Wallace Road.

Another 100-acre park site is west of the Willamette and similar to Bush's Pasture; one site is 50 acres in North Salem and the fourth is 50 acres near the bypass and Santiam Junction.

**BRIDGE BONDS**—This \$140,000 issue would pay for concrete bridges to replace old wooden ones across South Mill Creek on South High Street, across Shelton Ditch on Lee Street, across Mill Creek on 25th Street and on 14th Street.

**STREET WIDENINGS**—Based

on traffic counts showing heaviest use, this \$188,000 issue is earmarked for widening work on 12th Street south of Mission, Fairgrounds Road between South and Hood, Market Street east of Sumner Street.

**AIRPORT TAX**—This \$50,000 tax (about 1 1/2 mills) would reconstruct the north-south taxiways, add a connecting taxiway, reconstruct part of one runway and add second unit to the administration building. City's money would be matched by \$50,000 in federal funds for the work.

**LIBRARY TAX**—A \$30,000 one-year tax would make first change in library building since 1912 by putting a \$14,300 addition at southwest corner and furnish it with steel stacks, improve lighting, make \$5,200 worth of repairs and establish for \$5,000 a branch library at West Salem city building.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**—The \$65,000 bond issue would cover cost of a city-owned fire alarm telegraph system and rebuilding an old aerial ladder truck. The \$37,000 annual special tax would permit employment of eight additional firemen.

Both measures are needed to meet recommendations of fire underwriters for lowering Salem insurance rates.

**Cattle Breeders Close Convention**

PORTLAND 10 — The Ayrshire Breeders Assn. closed its annual meeting here Saturday, electing G. Fred Williams of Hutchinson, Kan., as president.

Other officers are Philip Stockley, Urbana, Ohio, first vice president; Charles Rodriguez of Troy, N.Y., F. F. McHone of Stockton, Iowa, and Cuthbert Nairn of Douglasville, Pa., vice presidents; and Chester Putney, Bandon, Va., clerk.

Financial measures on the city ballot for May 18:

Water Supply (bonds)	\$3,750,000
Park Sites (bonds)	700,000
Park Operation (tax)	35,000
Street Widening (bonds)	188,000
New Bridges (bonds)	140,000
Fire Alarm (bonds)	65,000
More Firemen (tax)	37,000
Library Expansion (tax)	30,000
Airport Improvement (tax)	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,995,000</b>

All these figures leave out the city water supply by a new main line from the North Santiam River.

**Water Revenues**

City officials have planned to pay off this bond issue out of water department revenues by increasing water rates—under a plan that has been before the aldermen two or three years. The proposed water rate revision would be the change in 40 years.

Household rates would be affected only by elimination of the favorable irrigation rate in summer months. Small water users would pay the same basic rate as at present, but with heavy water use for gardening and household in summer, the extra cost would average out \$1 to \$2 a month over the year. With industrial increases, too, the water rate revenue would gain by about 20 per cent.

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## MEET ED BARNES, STEELWORKER



When the United States Information Agency sought a man to typify an average American industrial worker in a project to debunk Communist propaganda abroad in the cold war, the agency chose a Pennsylvania steelworker. He is James Edward Barnes, of Morrisville, Pa., millwright in a steel plant.

A massive exhibit, consisting of 27 enlarged color photographs of the normal living routine of the Barnes family, has been sent to Japan and the Far East to acquaint the millions in other countries with the American worker's way of life. First displayed by The Advertising Council in Washington, the exhibit eventually will be sent around the world. Just a few of the pictures are shown here.



Like any typical young father of three, Ed finds work to be done even after he gets home — and he loves it. Tricky project, too, helping assemble the boy's model airplanes.



Mrs. Barnes takes charge of the big job of keeping plenty of wholesome food on hand for the household of five. And, often as not, the whole five go to market and help shop.



The Barnes home, car and family — all modern, all typical. Inside the house Mrs. Barnes' kitchen and laundry are equipped with labor-saving electrical appliances. The modern school is not far away. And Ed is planning more education for the children than he himself got in trade and high schools.



All present and normal at the evening meal — normal even to that remark 9-year-old Jimmie has just tossed at big sister Linda Gay, 13 . . . Just possible that Mrs. Barnes is waiting to tell Ed what tonight's do-it-yourself project is — soon as they get the children to bed. Lana Lee, who's only 5, just eats.



As a millwright Ed ranged all over the big mill. Here he's signing a crane operator. He liked his job, figured to "go places" in the mill. He did, too. He was recently promoted to foreman.



The mortgage on Ed's new home, the payments on the car and the family bills get squared away on payday. Then Ed stops around at the bank to add a few dollars to the growing nest egg.

### The Barnes Family Budget

Based on earnings of \$500 a month as a millwright.

Food	29%	Savings	10%
House payments	17%	Income tax	7%
Car payments	14%	Clothing	6%
Recreational and personal	10%	Miscellaneous expenses	7%

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