



WOODBURN FIRE DISTRICT

LOCAL OPTION LEVY INFORMATION

Board Action On August 14, 2018, the elected leaders of the Woodburn Fire District approved Resolution 2018-03 to refer a local option levy to the voters on the November 6th ballot.

Purpose of the Proposed Local Option Levy Funds from the levy would ensure that a paramedic capable of providing advanced life support is on duty at all times. Funds from the levy would also ensure that a minimum of four career firefighters, including an advanced life support paramedic, are on-duty in Woodburn at all times.

Key Community Benefits

- ✓ **Help Provide Advanced Life Support Service** - Advanced Life Support paramedics bring near emergency room level of assistance to patients having medical emergencies. Funds from the levy would be used to provide Advanced Life Support training to a select group of current firefighters to ensure that a firefighter with the advanced training is on-duty at all times in the District.
- ✓ **Help Provide More Immediate Life Saving Action at Emergencies** - When four firefighters arrive at the scene of a fire they are able to take more immediate action to fight fire and save lives without needing to wait for other responders to arrive. For example, a four person medical response team provides better medical care by ensuring tasks such as high performance CPR, breathing assistance, electronic heart monitoring, and communication with the hospital and ambulance personnel can all be done at the same time. Currently, there are only three firefighters on-duty on many days.
- ✓ **Help Maintain the Ability to Handle Multiple Emergency Calls** - Funds from the levy would help the District's ability to handle multiple emergency calls at the same time without having to wait up to 15 minutes for back-up from near-by fire districts or volunteers responding from home. Overlapping emergency calls occur more than 300 times per year in the Woodburn Fire District. When 4 firefighters are on duty, it creates an opportunity to staff a second response apparatus with volunteer assistance to help cover the overlapping emergency calls.

Amount of Proposed Local Option Levy If approved, the levy would add 35 cents to the District's property tax rate for 5 years beginning in 2019 and ending in 2024.

Impact on Property Owners The cost to property tax payers in the District depends on the *assessed* (not market) value of their property. For residential property valued at \$160,000, about average for the District, the cost would be approximately \$56 dollars a year or about \$5 per month.

Impact if the Local Option Levy Fails While maintaining emergency response services would remain the top priority for the District, if the levy does not pass, the District would likely need to lay-off two firefighter/medics. Without these additional firefighter/medics, life-saving action at medical emergencies, fires, and motor vehicle accidents would be delayed. The inability to maintain staffing with the current tax revenue is a result of inflation and increasing operational costs.

Communities Served by the Woodburn Fire District The Woodburn Fire District serves a 75 square mile area of the Willamette Valley that includes the communities of Woodburn, Gervais,

Waconda, and Broadacres. The District operates from four stations including the main station (Station 21) located on Newberg Hwy.

Services Provided by the Woodburn Fire District The Woodburn Fire District staff includes both career firefighter/medics and volunteer firefighters who provide:

- ✓ Emergency Medical Response
- ✓ Fire Suppression
- ✓ Fire Prevention Services
- ✓ Rescue Services
- ✓ Hazardous Materials Response
- ✓ Public Assistance

Woodburn Fire District Tax Rate Compared to Other Fire Districts If the local option levy is approved, Woodburn Fire District’s total property tax rate would be \$2.14. This would include the permanent rate, capital bond approved by voters in 2002, and the proposed local option levy. The table below shows how this rate compares with other fire districts in the area:

Fire District	Total Tax Rate Permanent + Bond + Levy
Woodburn Fire District	
Current rate	\$1.79
Rate if local option levy is approved	\$2.14
Canby Fire District	\$1.99
Tualatin Valley Fire District	\$2.07
Sandy Fire District	\$2.17
Estacada Fire District	\$2.40
Clackamas County Fire District #1	\$2.50

Additional Fire District Facts

- The Woodburn Fire District responds on more than 2700 calls per year. Over the last 10 years the call volume has been steadily increasing an average of 4% per year. Maintenance of all current staff is necessary to meet increasing demand. When the annual call volume crosses 2500, response reliability drops as indicated by more than 300 overlapping calls each year.
- Ambulance wait times can be as long as 20 minutes when Woodburn Ambulance resources run low. Paramedic level skills would allow more life-saving pre-hospital interventions that would save lives.
- 1700 new homes are expected in the area over the next 5 years. The retention of all current staff would help to meet the increasing demand for emergency response that the new development will bring.

For more information on the Woodburn Fire District or the local option levy, contact Fire Chief Joe Budge (503 982-2360) chief.budge@woodburnfire.com