

24-488

Marion County Clerk

Notice of Measure Election

AUG 22 2023

SEL 803

rev 03/18 ORS 250.035,
250.041, 255.145, 255.345

District

Notice

Date of Notice	Name of District	Name of County or Counties	Date of Election
August 22, 2023	Aurora Fire District	Marion Clackamas	November 7, 2023

Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Five Year Levy for Maintaining Current 24/7 Staffing and Operations.

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall District replace rate with \$1.51 per \$1000 of assessed value for 5 years beginning 2024, maintaining current staffing 24/7? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

Aurora Fire is seeking a five-year local option tax to maintain current operations without hiring additional staff. Levy increase will keep current career EMTs/Firefighters on duty 24/7. Without levy the District will lay off half of current staff, and 24/7 coverage from career firefighters will end. The District currently has funding for two firefighters per 24 hours, this is below national standards of staffing of a three person minimum crew.

AFD responds to roughly 1300 emergencies a year, the amount of calls has stretched current resources thin. Demands on volunteers have become increasingly difficult to balance. We can no longer rely on a volunteer response due to increased demand. This levy replaces the current rate of \$0.99.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$1,620,176 in 2024-25; \$1,668,782 in 2025-26; \$1,718,845 in 2026-27; \$1,770,411 in 2027-28; and \$1,823,523 in 2028-29.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

- any measure referred by the district elections authority; **or**
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached? Yes No

Authorized District Official Not required to be notarized.

Name	Title
Joshua L. Williams	Fire Chief
Mailing Address	Contact Phone
21390 Main Street, Aurora, OR 97002	503-678-5966

By signing this document:

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election; **and**
- I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature redacted

August 22, 2023

Signature

Date Signed

AUG 23 2023

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Measure No. 24-488

Election Date: November 7, 2023

See Attached:

Please begin with "Quick facts" and end before "Total Words: 416"November 7

Total Words 416 (Statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature Signature redacted Title Fire Chief

Printed Name Joshua L. Williams

Local Government Unit Aurora Fire District

AUG 23 2023

Aurora FD Option Levy

Explanatory Statement

Quick facts

- Without a levy increase we will lay off half or more (3-4) of our current career firefighters
- Without a levy increase we will no longer have the ability to provide 24/7 response with career firefighters
- This levy does not add any additional staffing
- Volunteer numbers continue to decrease nationwide
- Response times will be impacted
- We are looking at all of our options, including mergers, consolidation, and/or contracts for services from neighboring agencies.

Responding to around 1,300 emergencies per year, AFD provides Firefighting, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to residents within 64 square miles of Marion and Clackamas Counties. We protect the Cities of Aurora and Donald as well as the Aurora Airport, portions of Champoeg State Park, and Interstate 5.

This levy would allow us to keep our current career EMT/Firefighters. We have now reached the point where we can no longer rely on a volunteer response. This levy will replace the current rate of 99 cents, making the new levy amount \$1.51 per \$1000 of assessed value. This represents a 52 cent increase.

With the failure of our request in May to hire additional firefighters, we are asking our voters to allow us to keep the staffing that we currently have. Currently, there are two career firefighters on duty 24/7, which is below national standards. With this request, we are attempting to maintain our current firefighters 24/7. We have simply become too busy with the limited personnel we have.

The District has a small group of qualified volunteers who serve in all positions from duty officer to our newest recruit; however, time demands on volunteer firefighters have reached a point where it is difficult to recruit and, more importantly, retain volunteers. Family life, job requirements, and increased emergency calls have changed the face of the fire service both nationwide and locally. Ask yourself this: Do you have the time to volunteer?

The District recruits volunteers who live and/or work within the community and can respond to emergency calls. We also recruit 'out of district' volunteers who may live anywhere throughout the Willamette Valley and sign up for shifts (generally 8-24 hours in length) in Aurora or Donald.

Our student program exists to provide staffing and a career path to college students. The District strives to maintain six student firefighters and place them on shifts (currently helping to ensure a staffed fire engine). When recruited, these students are among the newest and most inexperienced members.

Total Words: 416 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

This information submitted by
Joshua L. Williams, Fire Chief
Aurora Fire District

FILED
MARION COUNTY OREGON

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BY McC DEPUTY
KILL BURGESS
COUNTY CLERK