

**NO ARGUMENTS
WERE FILED IN
OPPOSITION TO THIS
MEASURE**

Information Submitted by:
Joshua L. Williams
Fire Chief
Aurora Fire District

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.

(Statement Continued on Next Column)

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?

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 Champoege 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.

Quick facts
Explanatory Statement:

Measure No. 24-488
Aurora Rural Fire Protection District

**Official Marion County
Ballot Drop Sites**

The Marion County drop sites listed below will be open beginning October 18th.
On Election Day, November 7th, drop sites will remain open until 8:00 pm.

You DO NOT need to apply postage if you use an Official Marion County Drop Box or mail within the United States.

Donald City Hall 10710 Main St NE, Donald	Walk-up Drop Box 24 Hours
Jefferson City Hall/ Library 150 N 2 nd St, Jefferson	Curbside Drop Box 24 Hours
Keizer City Hall 930 Chemawa Rd NE, Keizer	Curbside Drop Box 24 Hours
Marion County Clerk 555 Court St NE, Ste 2130, Salem	Indoor Drop Box Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5 pm Election Day 7 am - 8 pm
Marion County Health 3180 Center St NE, Salem	Curbside Drop Box 24 Hours
Marion County Public Works 5155 Silverton Rd NE, Salem	Curbside Drop Box Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm Election Day 8 am - 8 pm
Mill City - City Hall 444 S 1 st Ave, Mill City	Indoor Drop Box Daily 8 am - 4 pm Election Day 8 am - 8 pm
Roth's Fresh Market - Hayesville 4746 Portland Rd NE, Salem	Indoor Dropbox Daily 6 am - 9 pm Election Day 6 am - 8 pm
Roth's Fresh Market - Sunnyslope 4555 Liberty Rd S, Salem	Indoor Drop Box Daily 6 am - 9 pm Election Day 6 am - 8 pm
Roth's Fresh Market - Vista 3045 Commercial St SE, Salem	Indoor Drop Box Daily 6 am - 9 pm Election Day 6 am - 8 pm
Silverton - Lewis St. Parking Lot 208 Lewis St & S 1 st St, Silverton	Curbside Drop Box 24 Hours

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

Question: 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: 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.

Measure No. 24-488
Aurora Rural Fire Protection District

**Aurora Rural Fire Protection
District**

County of Marion
VOTERS' PAMPHLET



**November 7, 2023
Special Election**

Selected portions of this county voters' pamphlet are available in Simplified Chinese, Korean, Marshallese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. These translations can be found online at oregonvotes.gov/MarionVP

Voted ballots for this election must be received in an Elections Office or an Official Oregon Ballot Drop Site by 8:00 pm, November 7, 2023, or Postmarked by November 7, 2023, and received by November 14, 2023.

Compiled and Distributed by
Marion County Clerk - Elections
Bill Burgess
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TTY 800.735.2900
FAX 503.588.5383
elections@co.marion.or.us
www.co.marion.or.us/CO/elections

How to cast your vote...

1 Complete your ballot

To vote, completely fill in the box next to your choice.



2 Check for errors

- You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.
- If you vote for more options than are allowed, your vote **will not count** for that contest.
- If you think you made a mistake, call the Marion County Elections Office.

3 Using the optional "Secrecy" sleeve

If you use the optional "Secrecy" sleeve, put only your voted ballot inside. Then, put only your "Secrecy" sleeve inside your return envelope.



You are not required to use the "Secrecy" sleeve.

4 Sign your return envelope

You must sign your return envelope or **your vote will not count.**

We verify every signature on every envelope against the voter files.



5 Return your ballot

- By mail
- At any official drop site (see list on this flyer)
- At the Clerk's/Elections Office

**Measure No. 24-488
Aurora Rural Fire Protection District**

Argument in Support:

Dear Voters of Aurora Fire District,

We need your help to maintain the current level of Fire and Emergency Medical Services that you have come to rely on. Aurora Fire District responds to approximately 1,300 emergency calls annually, providing Firefighting, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services to residents within 64 square miles of Marion and Clackamas Counties. Our coverage area includes the Cities of Aurora and Donald, 91 and North Marion Schools, Aurora and Lendhart Airports, portions of Champoeg State Park, and Interstate 5.

Unfortunately, our request to hire additional firefighters failed by four votes in May, so now we ask you, the voters, to approve this levy to maintain our current staffing level. Currently, we have two career firefighters on duty 24/7. If the levy doesn't pass, we will have to lay off half our current career firefighters, and will no longer be able to provide 24/7 responses.

Volunteer firefighter numbers continue to decline nationwide. Although we have a small group of dedicated volunteers who serve in all positions, from duty officer to our newest student recruit, it has become challenging to recruit and, most importantly, retain them. Family life, job requirements, and increased emergency calls have changed the face of fire service nationally and locally. We ask you to consider this: Do you have the time to volunteer?

Passing this levy would allow us to keep our current career EMT/ Firefighters. The new levy of \$1.51 per \$1,000 assessed value represents a .52 cent increase, replacing the current rate of .99 cents. Without passage, response times may be impacted.

Your Board of Directors is exploring all options, including mergers and consolidation, but we would prefer Aurora Fire District remain independent.

We kindly ask for your help in ensuring the continued 24/7 protection of our communities by your local first responders and fire district. Please vote in favor of this levy and help us help you.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors, Aurora Fire District

(This information furnished by Debra Gamer on behalf of Aurora Fire District #63)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Marion County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument. Marion County does not correct errors in spelling or grammar.

**Measure No. 24-488
Aurora Rural Fire Protection District**

Argument in Support:

Dear Aurora Fire District Voters,

I am writing to ask your support for the Aurora Fire District levy to allow for continued staffing. For over 45 years Woodburn Ambulance Service has worked in close partnership with Aurora Fire District to provide excellent emergency medical services and ambulance transport to those in need. The demands of ever increased training, more calls, and shifting demographics make it harder and harder to recruit volunteers for this important first response. The levy will allow for Aurora to maintain current staffing and assure a first response is available 24/7.

As your paramedic ambulance provider we are fortunate to have highly trained volunteer and career staff assistance within Aurora Fire District on emergency medical calls. We train together, share the same physician medical director, and often respond together. We urge you to support this level of response by voting yes on measure 24-488.

Sincerely,
Shawn Baird, Paramedic
CEO, Woodburn Ambulance Service

(This information furnished by Shawn Baird on behalf of Woodburn Ambulance)

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**Measure No. 24-488
Aurora Rural Fire Protection District**

Argument in Support:

Dear Voters,

We are your neighbors, your co-workers, your friends and family. We work hard to make ends meet, earn a living, and care for our families. While many of us work careers elsewhere, we devote our time to study, train, and respond to our community in their time of need whenever the call for help comes in. We are the District 63 Volunteer Firefighters.

The many challenges and growth our region has experienced have placed a burden on all of us, but it is important that we ask you to vote for this levy to allow us to continue serving. The reality we face today is that, without your help, our fire district will not be able to meet the demand on its own. Without your help, we will have to rely on other agencies to pick up the slack. That means longer response times, increased risk to responders, and less control over how we want our community protected.

Our volunteers are very honored to serve and would love to be able respond to every call, but these difficult times don't allow us the privilege. We need our career staff to answer the call when we cannot, and to support us when we can. With your help, the fire district can maintain existing staffing and continue our work as safely and effectively as possible.

Please support this levy and allow us to continue providing this important service for our community. Whether paid or volunteer, we are all equally proud of the job we do for you and hope that we can have the means to continue.

Respectfully,
District 63 Volunteer Firefighters

(This information furnished by Matthew M. Bathke on behalf of District 63 Firefighters)

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VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To be eligible to vote in the November 7, 2023, Special Election, a completed voter registration card must be on file with the Marion County Clerk by no later than 5:00 pm, October 17, 2023.

YOU MAY REGISTER TO VOTE IF:

- You are a citizen of the United States
- You are at least 16 years of age (you may vote if you will be 18 years of age or older on election day)
- You are a resident of Oregon

YOU MUST RE-REGISTER TO VOTE IF:

- Your residence or mailing address changes
- Your name changes
- You wish to change party affiliation

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

When you receive your ballot packet in the mail, immediately examine it to make certain it is complete. It should contain the following items:

- A printed ballot on which you may vote
- A secrecy sleeve with instructions printed on it
- A pre-addressed ballot return envelope in which to return your ballot

If any items are missing, contact the Marion County Clerk's Office at 503.588.5041, and a replacement ballot packet will be sent to you.

VOTING & CORRECTING YOUR BALLOT

If you make an error on your ballot, spoil it in any way, or lose it, you may obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the Marion County Clerk's Office at 503.588.5041.

RETURNING YOUR VOTED BALLOT

- Follow the instructions on the secrecy sleeve
- Fold your ballot along the pre-scored folds and insert it into the optional secrecy sleeve (if desired)
- Insert ballot (or ballot and secrecy sleeve) into the ballot return envelope
- SEAL the ballot return envelope and SIGN the statement on the back of the envelope
- Mail or place the return envelope in an Official Ballot Drop Box

Your ballot will not be counted if your ballot return envelope is not signed.

(This information furnished by Matthew M. Bathke on behalf of District 63 Firefighters)

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**Measure No. 24-488
Aurora Rural Fire Protection District**

Argument in Support:

Citizens of Aurora Fire District,

The Aurora Fire District Career Firefighters wish to express our strong and unwavering support for Local Option Levy 24-488, which we believe is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

As Career Firefighters, our primary mission is to protect and serve the residents of Aurora, Butteville, Donald, and surrounding areas. We take immense pride in our commitment to this profession, and our dedication to safeguarding lives and property remains unwavering. However, we can only fulfill this duty effectively when we have the necessary resources and support from our community.

Local Option Levy 24-488 represents an opportunity to invest in the future of our fire district. By approving this levy, we can secure the funding required to maintain the level of service we provide to our community. This levy will enable us to maintain current staffing, thus ensuring we continue to have 24/7 coverage to respond to emergencies promptly.

By voting "YES" on Local Option Levy 24-488, you are helping to ensure that the community served by Aurora Fire District remains a safe and resilient place to live, work, and raise families.

We understand that every dollar counts, and we do not take lightly the responsibility of asking our community for support. We assure you the funds generated by this levy will be used efficiently and transparently to meet the needs of the fire district.

Please join us in supporting the safety of our community by voting "YES" for Local Option Levy 24-488. Your support is vital, and it will make a significant difference in our ability to continue providing the high level of fire and emergency services that the citizens of Aurora Fire District have come to expect.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and ongoing support.

Sincerely,
Aurora Fire District Career Firefighters

(This information furnished by Tanner Burke)

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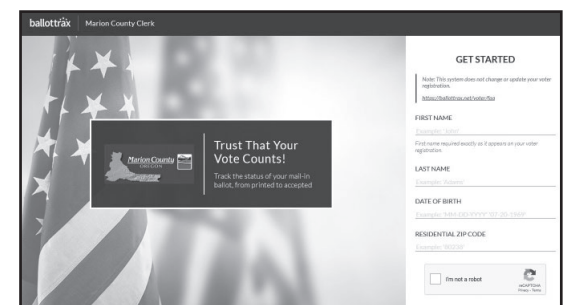
Track Your Ballot

Sign up for updates about your Ballot from the Marion County Clerk

The Marion County Clerk is offering a program to voters in Marion County that allows them to track the status of their ballot through automated notifications.



Participating voters will have the option of receiving text, email, or voice alerts at several points on their ballot's journey.



If you have any questions about this service, please call the Marion County Clerk's Office at 503.588.5041.

Sign up today to begin receiving messages:

marioncountyclerk.ballottrax.net/voter