

SEP 05 2023

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Measure No. 24-493

Election Date: November 7, 2023

The Board of Directors for Marion County Fire District No.1 (the Fire District) voted on July 20th, 2023, to place a replacement local option levy in the amount of \$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value on the November 7, 2023 ballot.

Who does the District serve?

Marion County Fire District No.1 serves approximately 59,000 people over 88 square miles, including the communities of Four Corners, Middle Grove, Pratum, Macleay, Brooks, Clear Lake, Lake Labish, and Chemeketa. It provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, ambulance transport, rescue services, and fire prevention services. The Fire District has 70 employees and 53 volunteers who responded to 9,848 emergency calls in 2022. Calls for service have increased 31% over the past 3 years.

How is the District Funded & Staffed?

The District is not part of, nor does it receive funding from county or state government. It is a separate taxing "Special District," providing emergency services to the community since 1939.

MCFD No.1 is funded through a permanent property tax rate of \$1.90 per thousand assessed value. In 2008, voters approved a 16-year bond measure for the purchase of fire and EMS vehicles and station improvements, that was paid off early, in 2022. State law prohibits the use of bond funds for operational expenses.

In 2021, as call volumes continued to grow, voters approved a levy of \$0.59 per \$1,000 assessed property value for one dedicated Fire Engine. Since then, inflationary costs and emergency calls for service have increased rapidly. The District was fortunate enough to also receive a 3-year Federal Grant for staffing of a dedicated engine company at the Four Corners Fire Station, which will run out in February 2025.

Before July 2020, the District had the ability to provide fire and EMS response engines to assist our public while the ambulances transported patients. Voters in 2020 were paying a total of \$2.94/\$1,000 in taxes to the District, the taxes with the proposed levy would be \$2.89/\$1,000, a net savings of \$0.05/\$1,000 from 3 years ago.

How would levy funds be used?

While maintaining emergency response services would remain the top priority of MCFD No.1 if the levy is not approved; the Fire District will not be able to fully meet the increasing emergency response demand. This will result in longer response times for emergencies and a reduction in the number of staffed response units.

For more information go to www.mcf1.com or contact Fire Chief Kyle McMann at (503) 588-6535 or kylem@mcf1.com.

Total Words 499 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature [Signature redacted] Title Deputy Fire Chief

Printed Name Ron Lee

Local Government Unit Marion County Fire District No.1