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March 3, 2023

Brian Van Bergen
Elections and Recording Manager
Marion County Clerk's Office
555 Court Street NE
PO Box 14500
Salem OR 97309

RE: Ballot Title for Local Option Levy for the Aurora Fire District

Dear Mr. Van Bergen:

I have reviewed the Notice of Measure Election and Request for Ballot Title forms submitted for the proposed local option levy for the Aurora Fire District dated February 23, 2023, and I approve the following ballot title for the May 2023 election:

Caption: Five-year levy for hiring additional firefighters & general operations.

Question: Shall AFD replace current rate with \$1.98/assessed value for five years beginning 2023, hiring EMTs/Firefighters and enhancing operations? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

Summary: Aurora Fire is seeking a five-year local option tax for general operations. Monies are needed to maintain and hire additional career EMTs/Firefighters. This levy will assist the District to staff apparatus with up to 3 career EMTs/Firefighters 24/7. 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 over 1300 emergencies a year, the amount of calls is stretching current resources thin. The reality is that times have changed. Demands on volunteers have become increasingly difficult to balance. We are no longer the small rural district we used to be, we are asking you to decide what service level you want us to provide. Money will be used for staffing, general operating expenses such as equipment, supplies and repairs. This levy request will help ensure we are staffed for your emergency and will put us on target for meeting minimum staffing standards. This levy replaces the current rate of \$0.99.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$2,208,296 in 2023-24; \$2,284,485 in 2024-25; \$2,353,351 in 2025-26; \$2,423,992 in 2026-27; and 2,496,712 in 2027-28.

Thank you,

Redacted Signature

Paige E. Clarkson
Marion County District Attorney