

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET**

Measure No. 24-490

Marion County Clerk

Election Date: 11/7/2023

SEP 05 2023

Ballot Title Caption: Fire and Emergency Services Operating Levy.

The Keizer Fire District relies on a five-year local option levy to meet the demand for services in the Fire District. The current local option levy expires in June 2024. As a result, the Board of Directors has voted unanimously to ask voters to approve a five-year operating levy at the rate of \$.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Keizer Fire District relies on levy funding to sustain emergency services. Without levy funding, emergency service levels will be greatly reduced. Revenue from this levy would allow the Fire District to meet growing demands on Fire District services caused by increasing call volume. The revenue would also address the rising cost of fuel, medical supplies, and other materials needed for operation.

In 2022, the Fire District had 6,469 emergency responses, compared to 3,736 in 2012. This represents a 73% increase since the last levy rate adjustment in 2013. Over 80% of those responses were Emergency Medical Services (EMS) related. Fires, rescues, and calls for assistance accounted for the remaining calls. In emergency situations, such as fire or cardiac arrest, the Fire District responded in less than six minutes 92.7% of the time. Positive outcomes are diminished with extended response times. The Fire District requires levy funding for continued operations to meet this level of demand. Without sufficient levy funding, service levels will decrease and response times will increase.

Keizer Fire District is a Special District, a separate unit of government with its own tax base, not a part of a city or a county government. Formed in 1948 by a vote of the people, it is governed by an elected Board of Directors, who reside in the Fire District. As representatives of the Fire District's residents, their responsibility is to make policy decisions that ensure the highest level of fire, emergency medical, and life safety are provided in the most cost-effective manner. Keizer Fire District is staffed by forty-two career and ten volunteer personnel.

The Keizer Fire District Board of Directors is asking Keizer Fire District residents to replace the expiring five-year local option levy of \$.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value with a new five-year local option levy of \$.99 per \$1,000. A "Yes" vote would provide funding for the Fire District to increase the level of service to meet the increasing number of calls for service. It would provide additional staffing to respond to your emergency and other needs of the community and cover the cost of providing 9-1-1 communications as required by law. Even with the approval of this levy, Keizer Fire District will continue to remain at a lower tax rate for Fire and EMS services than the City of Salem or Marion County Fire District.

Total Words 449 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature Signature redacted Title Fire Chief

Printed Name Ryan Russell

Local Government Unit Keizer Fire District