

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Measure No. 24-484

Election Date: 5/16/2023

Please see attached.

FILED
MARION COUNTY OREGON

'23 MAR 16 P12:05

BILL BURGESS
COUNTY CLERK
BY MC DEPUTY

Total Words 485 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature Signature redacted Title Fire Chief

Printed Name Joshua L. Williams

Local Government Unit Aurora Fire District

MAR 16 2023

Aurora FD Option Levy

Explanatory Statement

Quick facts

- Most of our volunteers do not live in district
- Our busiest volunteer responded to less than 19% of our calls in 2022
- By law, our tax assessments go up 3%. Our expenses have increased faster than revenue received.
- Call volume continues to increase
- Without a levy increase we will need to lay off some of our current career firefighters
- Volunteer numbers continue to decrease nationwide
- We don't want to ask you to raise your taxes, but the math tells us we must
- This levy will remain in place for 5 years
- We are looking at all of our options, including mergers, consolidation, and or contracts for services from neighboring agencies.

This request is our opportunity to ask you what level of service you would like us to provide. If your home is on fire, national mandates prohibit us from entering to extinguish the fire until a minimum of four firefighters are on scene. This levy will assist us to meet these standards and provide better service to the community.

Responding to over 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 20 miles of Interstate 5.

This levy would provide additional 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.

We are currently operating below national minimum standards. This levy will also allow us to properly maintain facilities and all emergency equipment. Currently, there are two career firefighters on duty 24/7, which is below national standards. We are attempting to provide a standard of additional 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 12-24 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.

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