

AUG 23 2023

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE  
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Measure No. 24-488

Election Date: November 7, 2023

See Attached:

Please begin with "Quick facts" and end before "Total Words: 416"November 7

Total Words 416 (Statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature Signature redacted Title Fire Chief

Printed Name Joshua L. Williams

Local Government Unit Aurora Fire District

AUG 23 2023

# Aurora FD Option Levy

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## Explanatory Statement

### Quick facts

- 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 Champoeg 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.

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 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.

Total Words: 416 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

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

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MARION COUNTY OREGON

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COUNTY CLERK  
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