

Illinois Valley Fire District

Board of Fire Commissioners - Special Meeting Agenda

Please be aware that this meeting may be recorded - Please Silence your Telephones

July 26, 2021

1. Call to Order – President Lamb
2. Flag Salute – (Please remove hats) President Cheryl Johnson
3. Roll Call
4. 2022 FF/EMT Local Option Tax Levy
5. Comments
 - Public Comment: *This is the time set for public comment. The Board of Commissioners will listen and consider all comments for future agenda items. No voting or action will be taken by the Board of Commissioners today.*
 - Board of Director Comment:
 - President Comment
6. Next scheduled BOD Meeting is August 9, 2021 at 4:00 pm. at Admin Bldg.
7. Adjournment

(The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Comments and/or Concerns must be submitted in writing. The Board reserves the right to hold an executive session at this meeting under the authority of ORS 192.660.)
Please turn off all Cell phones during this Business Meeting - Thank you
Illinois Valley Fire District Administration Office - 681 Caves Hwy. - Cave Junction - OR 97523

Illinois Valley Fire District Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes July 26, 2021

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:45am. Flag Salute was led by President Johnson.

PRESENT: Directors Binker, Naydol, Johnson, Bouchard, and Lamb. Fire Chief Holmes, Dep. Chief Gavlik, Dep. Chief Ismaili, Div. Chief Sherman, Div. Chief Paul, Paula LeMasters, and FF Noah Miller

GUESTS: Bob Keefer, Special Districts Association of Oregon

ROLL CALL: Directors Binker, Naydol, Johnson, Bouchard, and Lamb were present.

NEW BUSINESS: Consideration of Resolution #21-08 to place the question of maintaining a Local Option Tax levy on members of the IV Rural Fire Protection District to continue employment of four (4) Firefighter/EMTs on the November 2021 Josephine County ballot.

Motion made by Director Linda Naydol to approve the Renewal of Local Option Tax Levy for the November 2021 ballot. Seconded by Director Richard Bouchard.

Roll call vote: Yes – Unanimous

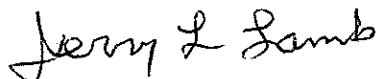
PUBLIC COMMENT: none

BOARD COMMENT: none

The next regularly scheduled BOD meeting will be Monday, August 9, 2021 at 4pm at the Administration building, 681 Caves Hwy., Cave Junction, OR.

This meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

Respectfully submitted,



Director Jerry Lamb
Board Secretary

Notice of Measure Election

District

SEL 803

rev 01/16 ORS 250.035,
250.041, 255.145, 255.345

Notice			
Date of Notice	Name of District Illinois Valley Fire District	Name of County or Counties Josephine	Date of Election 11/2/2021

Ballot Title Prepare with assistance from the district attorney or an attorney employed by the district.
Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure. Five year Levy to maintain Firefighter/EMTs to serve Valley Residents

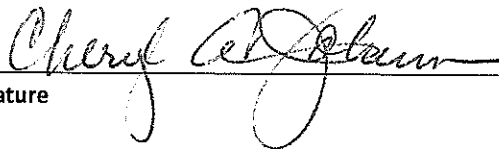
Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure. Shall the District impose five-year levy, beginning in 2022, for \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value, specifically to maintain firefighter staffing.
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Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect. The Illinois Valley Fire District, a primarily volunteer department, was formed by local citizens in 1954. As our Valley continues to grow and laws requiring volunteer education and commitment have put a strain on the volunteer program. This Levy would allow us to continue to provide a minimum staff 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to respond to the needs of our Valley residents. The revenue generated will be for the sole purpose of keeping our current Levy EMT/Firefighters, and NOT to fund any additional money for administration, or operations of the District. This Levy would not begin until the 2017 Levy ends, which would be a continued Levy expense, not an additional one. Currently, we pay \$1.87 /1,000 for the operations of the District and \$0.30 /1,000 for the Bond, that built four of the six stations, and expires in 2023 and \$.50/\$1,000 Local Tax Option Levy. The proposed rate of \$0.50/\$1,000 will raise approximately \$384,376 in the fiscal year 2022-2023; \$395,908 in the fiscal year 2023-2024; \$407,786 in the fiscal year 2024-2025; \$420,020 in the fiscal year 2025-2026; and \$432,621 in the fiscal year 2026-2027. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.
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Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect. If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for: → any measure referred by the district governing body; or → any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.
Explanatory Statement Attached? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Authorized District Official Not required to be notarized.	
Name Cheryl Johnson	Title Board President
Mailing Address 681 Caves Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523	Contact Phone 541-415-0199

By signing this document: → I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election and I certify the above ballot title is true and complete.
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 Signature	7/26/21 Date Signed
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Request for Ballot Title

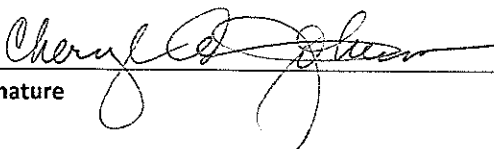
Preparation or Publication of Notice

SEL 805

rev 01/18
OAR 165-014-0005

No later than the 80th day before an election, a governing body that has referred a measure must prepare and file with the local elections official the text of the referral for ballot title preparation or the ballot title for publication of notice of receipt of ballot title. This form may be used to file the text of the referral and request the elections official begin the ballot title drafting process or file a ballot title and request the elections official publish notice of receipt of ballot title.

Filing Information	
Election Date November 2, 2021	Authorized Official Board President Cheryl Johnson
Contact Phone 541-415-0199	Email Address cajohnson614@gmail.com
Referral Information	
Title, Number or other Identifier Renewal of Local Option Tax to maintain 24/7 staffing	
This Filing is For	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of Ballot Title Attach referral text. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication of Notice Ballot title below.	
Ballot Title Additional requirements may apply	
Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure. Renewal of current five-year local tax option to maintain Firefighter/EMT's	
Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure. Shall the District impose five-year levy, beginning in 2022, for \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value, specifically to maintain firefighter staffing. This measure renews current local option taxes	
Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect. The Illinois Valley Fire District, a primarily volunteer department, was formed by local citizens in 1954. As our Valley, continues to grow laws requiring volunteer education and commitment have put a strain on the volunteer program. This Levy would allow us to continue to provide a minimum staff, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to respond to the needs of our Valley residents. The revenue generated will be for the sole purpose of keeping our current Levy EMT/Firefighters and NOT to fund any additional money for administration or operations of the District. This levy would not begin until the 2017 levy ends, which would be a continued levy expense not an additional one. Currently we pay \$1.87/\$1,000 for the operations of the District and \$0.30/\$1,000 for the Bond that built four of the six stations and expires in 2023, and \$.50/\$1,000 for Local Tax Option Levy. "The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate." (The proposed rate of \$0.50/\$1,000 will raise approximately \$384,376 in the fiscal year 2022-2023; \$395,908 in the fiscal year 2023-2024; \$407,786 in the fiscal year 2024-2025; \$420,020 in the fiscal year 2025-2026; and \$432,621 in the fiscal year	
<i>By signing this document:</i> → I hereby state that I am authorized by the county or city governing body, or district elections authority to submit this Request for Ballot Title – Preparation or Publication of Notice.	


Signature

7/20/21
Date Signed

Explanatory Statement

Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) is a primarily volunteer fire department covering 144 square miles from Hayes Hill to the California border. IVFD provides a full range of fire and emergency services with six fire stations.

During the last 10 years, IVFD has experienced increased call volumes from 1,176 calls for service in 2011 to 1,418 in 2020. Prior to instituting paid firefighter 24-hour staffing, average out-the-door response time was between four to six minutes. With our current paid-firefighter staffing, out-the-door response times have decreased to less than two minutes.

When an emergency happens, a timely response makes a huge difference. During cardiac arrest, brain death occurs in 4-6 minutes. With today's modern construction and furnishings, in a residential house fire, flashover occurs in 7-9 minutes. We never know when an emergency will happen. What we do know is that having Firefighter/EMTs available for a rapid response is vital to save lives and property.

Volunteer fire departments nationwide continue to see a steady decline in participation due to increasing requirements to maintain certifications, families working multiple jobs and growing personal cost and time necessary to be a volunteer firefighter. But the need is great. During the 2020 Slater Fire, which originated near Happy Camp, Calif., our valley experienced an imminent threat at a time where there were limited state-funded resources available to help. IVFD was able to aggressively provide for the safety of our community largely due to our career and volunteer firefighters and aid from departments and districts across Oregon.

The proposed levy will maintain IVFD's existing four (4) Firefighter/EMT positions for another five years and will take effect after the current levy expires in 2022. These firefighters work alternating 24-hour shifts to provide full-time staff for rapid response to emergencies and make it possible to handle multiple calls at the same time, which is occurring more and more frequently. Paid staff aid volunteer firefighter recruitment, provide consistent training opportunities for our volunteer firefighters, and actively engage the community through student programs.

Additionally, the improved response times and coverage these firefighter positions provide allow us to maintain a lower Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating, resulting in insurance premium cost savings for most homeowners.

Will this levy cost me more?

No, this levy will provide continued funding to maintain our current four (4) full time Firefighter/EMTs and will not add any additional cost to property owners. In fact, in 2023, our 20 year General Obligation Bond will have expired and property owners will see a \$0.30/\$1,000 assessed property value decrease in their taxes. Keeping our fire stations staffed with firefighters allows us to help save lives and property when minutes count the most.

Not one cent of the levy will leave the Valley.

Not one cent of the levy will be used for any additional administrative costs.

Not one cent of the levy will be used for any other projects, buildings, or apparatus.

**Before the Board of Directors
State of Oregon, County of Josephine
Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District**

Resolution 21-08

A resolution to place the question of implementing a tax levy on members of the Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District. This levy will provide revenue for the sole purpose of hiring Firefighter/EMTs to serve the Valley Residents. Said Levy to be proposed to the taxpayers on the November 2021 ballot in Josephine County, Oregon.

Whereas, The on-going community growth and calls for emergency and non emergency services continue to increase; and

Whereas, The current fire suppression staffing continues to remain below recognized fire service standards and is further limited by the number of available and qualified firefighters and emergency medical personnel; and

Whereas, The primary tax funding source for the addition of emergency response personnel is limited by State Law; and

Whereas, The ability for citizens to volunteer continues to be extremely limited due to the training and certification mandates, physical demands, the personal time investment required and the geographic location of the Fire District; and

Whereas, Current staffing in relation to population, territory served, and call volume continue to remain at critically low levels, despite the innovative efforts of the District to attract qualified volunteers. Lack of adequate staffing presents a significant safety liability risk for the District; and

Whereas, Safety standards adopted and recognized by OR-OSHA, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and best practices established by Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO), the required cost of training and equipping emergency response personnel has grown exponentially, and

Whereas, It is the District's conclusion that the best option is to provide 24 hour full-time in-station emergency response personnel to supplement the current volunteer force.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, That The Illinois Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors, meeting in special session, July 26, 2021 adopts this resolution to place the question on the November 2 2021, ballot in Josephine County, Oregon, for the voters of the Fire District. The local option levy question is:

"Shall the Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District impose a five year local option tax levy, beginning in 2022 for \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value specifically to maintain firefighting staffing?"



Board President - Cheryl Johnson



Secretary to the Board - Jerry Lamb

Date 7/26/21

Date 7-26-2021