ORS 251.345
OAR165-022-0040

COLUMBIA COUNTY
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Ballot Title Caption:

REPLACEMENT LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

Measure Number (if known):   Word Total (500 Max):

Statement

Scappoose Fire District (SFD) provides firefighting, emergency medical, rescue, and fire prevention services. The District serves residents and businesses in the Scappoose, Chapman, Warren, and Holbrook areas.

Why is this called a replacement levy?

It would take the place of the current levy that expires June 2017. It would appear for the first time on the November 2017 property tax bill.

What is its purpose?

The levy supports SFD's highest priority of fast and effective emergency response by:

1. Retaining 7 Firefighter/Paramedics hired since 2007.
2. Retaining 2 Firefighter/EMTs hired late 2015 with federal grant funds that expire in 2017.
3. Hiring 2 part-time, medical-only staff during peak activity hours.

This staffing level would provide 24 hour emergency response for two ambulances, plus another ambulance staffed with volunteer firefighters.

Why is additional staffing during peak activity hours being proposed?

Scappoose response teams include Firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics with the ability to provide immediate life-saving care at medical, rescue incidents and fires with a combination of volunteer and career personnel. The number of emergency response calls for SFD's services has increased from 1,359 in 2007 to 1,842 in 2015. Almost 30% of these are overlapping emergency response calls. This increased demand, combined with increasing overlapping calls, challenges SFD's ability to respond in a quick and effective manner. Two Firefighter/EMTs were hired recently with funds from a two-year federal grant. The proposed addition of two part-time, medical-only staff during peak activity hours would improve SFD's ability to provide fast and effective emergency response services during periods of high demand when volunteers might not be available.

What does the measure call for?

A "yes" vote would result in a local option levy tax rate of $1.24 per $1,000 assessed property value, an increase of $0.30 over the current rate. For property assessed at $200,000, the cost would be approximately $248 per year, an increase of about $60 over the current local option levy.

A "no" vote would result in no replacement for the current local option levy, which expires in June 2017. The current local option levy funds ambulance services.

What happens if the levy fails?

Without the 5-year levy, the permanent tax rate of $1.1145 per $1,000 assessed property value is not adequate to properly ensure fire and ambulance service. Residents will most likely see delays in response to their emergency and the District will be unable to run the ambulance service.

If the levy passes, the revenue would be used to:

- Maintain the current paid Firefighter/Paramedics , and the two federal grant positions
- Hire two part time medical only staff during peak periods.

What will it cost me?

The levy increases the current levy from $.94 to $1.24 per $1,000. The $0.30 increase adds $60 per year to a house with an assessed property value of $200,000. The rate of $1.24 per $1,000 does cost homeowners a total of $248 per year for a house assessed at $200,000.
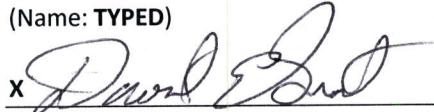
Person responsible for the content of the Explanatory Statement:

David Grant

(Name: **TYPED**)

X ~~David E Grant~~

(Name: **SIGNED**)

President

Position

March 16, 2016

Date signed

Instructions

- The explanatory statement shall be typed.
- Word total: not to exceed 500 words.
- Signature: signed by the person responsible for the content of statement and to include the name of the governing body that person represents.
- Deadline: The statement filing deadline is the same deadline date as that of filing the Notice of Measure election (5pm)
- Note: The county clerk shall reject any referred measure submitted without an explanatory statement

COLUMBIA COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

MAR 1 7 2016

DATE RECEIVED