

Amity Fire District

Referred by Amity Fire District Measure 36-204

RENEW FIVE YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX FOR OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL

Question: Shall the district renew levy \$0.45 per \$1,000 each year for five years beginning 2021 for operations and capital projects? This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary: This measure authorizes Amity Fire Board of Directors to levy a renewal property tax not to exceed \$0.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value each year for five years, beginning 2021. The taxes would be used to upgrade operations and personnel, replace, repair and upgrade district equipment and support partnerships, including:

*Personal protective clothing for occupational safety and cancer prevention standards.

*Enhanced training, personnel development, recruitment and retention of volunteers.

*Continued technology for training and reporting.

*Partnership with McMinnville Fire for a staffed FF/Paramedic Ambulance with two personnel assigned at Amity fire station.

*Vehicle and equipment maintenance and replacement to industry standards.

*Enhance operational cost for Administration and Training (current contract with McMinnville Fire).

The proposed rate would raise approximately \$188,732 a year for 5 years for Amity Fire District. This is estimated to be \$68/yr on a \$150,000 home - about \$5.70 a month. Amity Fire District is not asking for an increase from the previous year but a renewal to continue critical operations to the community they serve. 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 the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

**NO ARGUMENTS
WERE FILED IN
SUPPORT OF OR IN
OPPOSITION TO THIS
MEASURE**

Amity Fire District

Explanatory Statement Measure 36-204

Amity Fire District's annual budget is 47% base tax and 53% bonded debt. The District's permanent tax rate is \$0.84 per \$1,000. This rate was set by the Oregon Department of Revenue as a result of measure 50 in 1997. The bond is \$0.94 per \$1,000 passed in 2008. This measure will renew the current local option tax of \$0.45 per \$1,000, for a total combined rate of \$2.23 per \$1,000. This levy was passed in 2016 and the District has been able to achieve multiple projects and upgrades for the health, safety and response reliability of our Volunteer Firefighters and fast and effective emergency response for the community that we serve.

The construction and capital bond from 2008 helped purchase land, make site improvements and build two new stations on those properties. It also purchased a used fire engine and brush unit for the Perrydale fire station.

This left the District with \$0.84 per \$1,000 for yearly operations. Since 1990 and measure 50, obvious inflation and advanced technology have raised the cost of doing business and maintenance on the district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. Little funds have been left for recruitment, training development, and retention for the volunteers for the district. The increase in calls for emergency services and partnerships to provide reliable and timely response to our community. Renewing and continuing this measure will ensure Administration, Training and Operational response.

In the last 5 years, these Levy funds have been used to purchase EMS equipment, upgrade personal safety gear, vehicles, equipment and tools for wildland fires and increase training reporting and recording software and tools. Also the maintenance of apparatus and equipment to national standards and upgrade of technology in the station.

The Renewal of this Levy will continue to help pay for:

- 1) Personal protective clothing for occupational safety and cancer prevention standards.
- 2) Enhance training, personnel development, recruitment and retention of volunteers.
- 3) Continued technology for training and reporting. The district purchased a new training system that delivers training, simplifies compliance tracking, and improves performance for our volunteers.
- 4) Continue partnership with McMinnville Fire for a staffed FF/ Paramedic ambulance with two personnel assigned at the Amity Fire station.
- 5) Vehicle and equipment maintenance and replacement to industry standards. Our hose and ladders need to be tested annually per national standards, which is expensive and may require replacement. Our emergency vehicles need to be response ready and require costly maintenance.
- 6) Enhance operational costs for Administration and Training (current contract with McMinnville Fire). With the retirement of our Chief in July we needed to look at cost effective opportunities to partner within Yamhill county while continuing to support our volunteers and find ways to run daily operations. We signed a contract with McMinnville Fire Department to provide a 40-hour Training Chief out of Amity Fire station and continue our staffed ambulance. The Chief of McMinnville provides administrative services to our District providing policy, budget and operational management.

*Information furnished by Dean Schulze, Board Member
Amity Fire District*